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TUESDAY MARCH 27 1990

Howe appeals for loyalty

Heseltine in new pledge on Thatcher

By Philip Webster and Robin Oakley

THE PRIME Minister will lead the Conservatives into the next election and win it, Mr Michael Heseltine predicted last night.

The former Cabinet minister declared that no one had done more than he to support the election of Mrs Thatcher's three governments, and no one would strive harder to secure a fourth term. But his declaration fell short of a personal endorsement from the Prime Minister.

Mr Heseltine's unexpected intervention in the growing speculation about the Conservative Party leadership in the wake of the Mid Staffordshire by-election defeat last Thursday and a welter of adverse opinion polls came after an appeal from Sir Geoffrey Howe that he should declare his support for Mrs Thatcher.

At the same time, senior ministers predicted privately that Mr Heseltine's emergence as the favourite to succeed her would strengthen her resolve to stay on and fight the next election. "She will never hand the party over to Michael," a senior Cabinet source said.

Another minister, Mr Michael Howard, issued a veiled criticism of Mr Heseltine when he warned of the dangers of the Government adopting a more interventionist approach.

The Secretary of State for Employment had Mr Heseltine clearly in his sights when he told the Adam Smith Institute that those who proclaimed their adherence to the

free market but in reality "itch to pull levers and throw switches to intervene" would all too easily succumb to each successive call to interfere.

Mr Heseltine's carefully-drafted 160-word statement was issued after talks with allies at Westminster.

It said: "No one did more to support the election of Mrs Thatcher's first government when I launched the first privatisation programme of council houses sales. No one did more to support the election of Mrs Thatcher's second government when as Secretary of State for Defence I led the battle against CND."

"No one did more as a backbencher to support the election of Mrs Thatcher's third government when I spoke in 108 constituencies."

"I have repeatedly said I believe Mrs Thatcher will lead the Conservative Party into the next election and that the Conservative Party will win it. If I am proved right in those forecasts, my colleagues know no one will strive harder to secure a fourth term of Conservative government."

The absence in the statement of any praise for Mrs Thatcher was noted at Westminster last night but caused a little surprise, given their known differences and the fact that he did not vote for her in the leadership election last autumn, but it was seen as an attempt to calm the feverish speculation about his intentions.

Although Mr Heseltine has never disguised his leadership ambitions, he is anxious to avoid charges of splitting the party. It was noted last night that he had mentioned Mrs Thatcher by name several times in his statement, something he has been accused by opponents of failing to do in the past.

Earlier, his allies had insisted that Mr Heseltine had always been loyal to the Government and had nothing for which to apologize. However, Sir Geoffrey's surprise intervention made it inevitable that he would have to say something.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Sir Geoffrey said: "I would like to see Mr Heseltine doing what we are all doing, which is support the present Government going through the manifest difficulty of securing the acceptance of the change to the community charge and applying the right policies to the reconquest effectively of inflation to sus-



Tory divisions, page 12

Lawson warning on delayed ERM entry

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

MR NIGEL LAWSON yesterday intensified the pressure on the Prime Minister to agree to early entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, warning that the Government's commitment against inflation was at risk.

The former Chancellor of the Exchequer described Britain's non-membership as "an exposed flank" and suggested the timetable envisaged by the Government might be "too leisurely for the circumstances in which we find ourselves".

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, said in the Budget

Parliament, page 7

Union stalemate, page 8

Tear gas breaks up Sharpeville protest



African demonstrators fleeing tear gas fired by police at an illegal march in protest against conditions in Sharpeville yesterday

Deaths threaten Pretoria talks

From Gavin Bell
Johannesburg

NEGOTIATIONS between the South African Government and the African National Congress have been jeopardized by yesterday's clash between police and huge crowds of demonstrators, in which at least two people died and about 300 were injured, and guerrilla attacks in black townships.

Most of the casualties were in Soweto, south of the city, which resembled a battlefield after police opened fire with shotguns on tens of thousands of people protesting against high rents and racially segregated town councils. The order to fire was given by senior officers at the scene when the crowd ignored a judicial ban on the demonstration.

At one point panic-stricken blacks stumbled over the bodies of others hit by birdshot and rubber bullets in their haste to flee. Hospital workers said most of the casualties had been shot in the back.

An interim police report late yesterday said: "The situation is volatile, with police coming under constant attack, mainly by stone-throwing mobs. It is impossible to furnish reliable casualty figures, but we can confirm a number of people injured, including two policemen."

Guerillas meanwhile attacked council offices in Soweto and a nearby power station with rocket-propelled grenades and limpet mines, but nobody was injured.

Mr Adrian Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, appealed for calm after touring the trouble spots, which included Sharpeville. He expressed particular concern about white vigilante groups being formed in the Orange Free State town of Welkom, and reports of blacks being beaten with whips and clubs.

"This can be very dangerous, and will solve nothing," he said. "It can only lead to further problems, so I would request the public to allow the police and security forces to deal with the situation."

Protest deaths, page 11

Bush warns against force in Lithuania

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow, and Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

PRESIDENT Bush has warned the Soviet leader that all opportunities for future co-operation with the United States will be jeopardized if Moscow uses force in Lithuania. The warning, later repeated in Washington by Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, was conveyed by Senator Edward Kennedy in a 90-minute meeting with President Gorbachov in the Kremlin yesterday.

He denied that he had been entrusted with any special message by the US Administration, but said he had met President Bush immediately before coming to Moscow and that the President had made clear his views on Lithuania.

According to the senator, who is making what is technically a private visit to Moscow, Mr Gorbachov had reiterated his commitment to resolve the situation in Lithuania peacefully and in accordance with the Soviet Constitution.

He was said to have qualified his assurances for the first time, however, by indicating that force might be used "if lives were threatened". There has been speculation that the Soviet leadership could use a real or imagined threat to the safety of ethnic Russians in the republic as a pretext for all-out military intervention.

Mr Kennedy said his discussion with Mr Gorbachov had been dominated by

would not be lost. But he said the world's perception of President Gorbachov would be undermined by the use of force. It would "also hinder in an important and significant way a number of potential opportunities in the areas of trade, arms control and scientific and technical exchanges".

Meanwhile, the outcome of talks between the Lithuanian leadership of President Landsbergis and Soviet officers in Vilnius yesterday was initially reported to be an agreement that no further action would be taken without consultation.

However, President Landsbergis said later: "We have not received clear assurances about which buildings might be occupied in future or that movement of troops will be notified in advance to enable us to calm down our people."

Foreign journalists based in Moscow were still prevented from travelling to Vilnius yesterday, but those already there were not being required to leave.

Photograph, page 8
Treaties on line, page 8
John Grigg, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Bishop drops out of race

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Editor

THE BISHOP of Oxford, one of the most favoured candidates to succeed the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, disowned any ambition in the matter yesterday.

Bishop Richard Harries, who is no stranger to Lambeth Palace as one of Dr Runcie's speech-writers, said: "I don't want the job, and I don't think it's appropriate for me or any other bishop to speculate on it."

Dr Runcie announced on Sunday that he was retiring from the end of next January, which started the process for selecting a successor.

None of the other possible contenders entered the lists yesterday, though recent remarks from the Archbishop of Armagh, Dr Robert Eames, were taken as a clear hint of his hopes.

Asked on a radio programme last week about succeeding Dr Runcie, he said: "It is not for anyone to say Continued on page 22, col 5

Masculine Christian, page 18
Legal action, page 6

Ministers face new tax anger

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

MINISTERS were last night bracing themselves for renewed backbench Tory protests over the implementation of the community charge.

MPs were due to vote on a Labour resolution rejecting the Government's plans to cushion the introduction of the poll tax through transitional relief worth £810 million over three years.

Labour engineered the 90-minute late-night debate not to wreck the scheme but to highlight ministers' difficulties over the reform.

A number of Tory MPs seeking more generous subsidies were expected to rebel against the Government.

The three-year transitional relief scheme is aimed at helping people living in low-

property faced with a sharp rise in payments after the switch from rates to the community charge. It is intended to ensure that increases are held to no more than £3 a week.

However, the additional help is available only up to the notional poll tax determined in Whitehall for local authorities and does not cover community charges exceeding this amount.

Because so many councils are spending well above the Government's targets, many people will find that their bills will rise by much more than the theoretical maximum of £156 a year.

Nurses' anger, page 2
Photograph, page 2

we're not perfect.

just a vast improvement.

Appliance of science to the Dead Sea Scrolls

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent

THE DEAD Sea Scrolls, one of the greatest surviving archives of the Holy Land, are soon to be carbon-dated more than 40 years after their discovery in desert caves in Palestine.

The dating process will, it is hoped, help settle a dispute among scholars that places the scrolls at two different times nearly four centuries apart.

Since the scrolls include the earliest known texts of some of the books of the Bible, the dating process, and its resolution, will prove to be of interest to Christians, Muslims and Jews alike, and may settle the question of whether the Essenes, a mysterious sect living in ancient Palestine, held "Christian" beliefs centuries before the birth of Christ.

Nearly 800 papyrus and leather

scrolls have survived, and Mr Magen Broshi, a custodian of the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, where some of the documents are on display, said at least a dozen would be dated. Some experts believe they were written after the birth of Christ by his early followers in Palestine. But the majority of biblical scholars believe that the scrolls dated to the second or third century BC and were written by the esoteric Essene sect. Mr Broshi, however, said this assessment was based on a study of ancient handwriting styles and not on any independent scientific method. "We will now see if physics agrees with this," he said.

Professor Geza Vermes, a professor of Jewish Studies at Oxford University, said yesterday that it was believed that the scrolls were a collection of documents hidden in

about AD 66 to 70 during the first large Jewish revolution against the Romans.

"I would greatly welcome any greater precision in dating these scrolls," said Professor Vermes. "However, the carbon-dating will not necessarily solve the problem once and for all because the documents were compiled over centuries, most written in 300 BC and others only completed in the first century AD."

The dating has been thought necessary because of the claim by critics, such as Professor Robert Eisenman, of California State University, that the unpublished scrolls were the product of early Christian groups. Professor Eisenman and his colleagues believe that certain phrases commonly used in the early Church, together with what they interpret as cryptic references to Herod the Great, who lived in the first century BC,

prove the later dating. Although none of the scrolls has been carbon-dated before, part of the linen wrappings of one was dated more than 30 years ago.

In Switzerland, Professor Willy Woelfli, of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, said he would be prepared to date the scrolls so long as he could direct the operation.

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Bottomley fails to defuse nurses' protest

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

NURSES demanding poll tax rebates for all nursing students gave Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister for Health, an angry reception at their annual congress in Brighton yesterday.

They boozed and hissed throughout Mrs Bottomley's speech as she refused to give assurances on key issues of concern.

The Royal College of Nursing has been pressing the Government to extend the 30 per cent poll tax rebate for the 2,000 students on Project 2000 training courses to all 60,000 student nurses.

Miss Linda Bailey, a nursing student from Lambeth, south London, said she would have to pay £380 a year in poll tax. "Why should the majority of student nurses have to pay 100 per cent of the charge when trainees in the armed forces who are earning over £9,500 a year pay only 20 per cent?" she demanded. A first year student nurse working outside London earns £5,695.

Mrs Bottomley insisted that salaried student nurses, apart from those on the Project 2000 courses being implemented in 16 districts, would be treated like any other salaried health authority staff. Students in London would receive an 11 per cent increase by the end of the year and a 28 per cent rise this year in London waiting.

There was no relevance in a comparison with the armed forces, who had a different employer, she said.

Earlier, Miss Maud Storey,

the college president, claimed the poll tax was anomalous, divisive and short-sighted. It was divisive because it set one class of nursing student apart from the other. "It is shortsighted because it acts as another entirely avoidable deterrent to recruitment into nursing," she said.

Schools of nursing had reported that students have been checking the local community charge rate applying for a place, Miss Storey said. The viability of courses in high poll tax areas would be threatened.

Mrs Bottomley was also pressed to set up a national inspectorate to monitor and set standards in both health and local authority services. However, again she made it evident that the Government was not planning such a move. "There are other ways of achieving equality than having an inspectorate which would be yet another body and yet another organization," she said.

Quality would be specified in the contracts to be drawn up between health authorities and hospitals from next April.

Much of Mrs Bottomley's speech was devoted to praising nurses on their achievements and their hard work, but her comments were regarded as patronizing. "She misjudged nurses in terms of believing that her reassurances were all that were needed," Miss Christine Hancock, the college general secretary, said at a press conference later.

The colleges argue there is no evidence that the changes, which include self-governing hospitals, GP practice budgets and an internal market in health care, will improve patient care.

This request, however, met with little sympathy from Mrs

Bottomley yesterday. "It would be quite wrong now to delay the implementation of the Bill. Uncertainty is antipathetic to confidence." In order to maintain confidence

it was important to proceed with all speed with the changes.

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Detectives investigate charity's tele sales

By Mark Souter

HERTFORDSHIRE Fraud Squad is investigating a charity which uses telephone sales techniques to raise money for underprivileged children in the Third World.

The Children at Risk Fund has been receiving up to £1,000 a day, yet to date only £150 has been given to Oxfam and little, if any, has gone to other charities.

Accountants have also been called in to inspect the books of the charity — set up last July — after complaints by trustees, one of whom resigned last week. Only £800 has been received in unsolicited public donations.

While there is no evidence of criminal offences having been committed, concern has been expressed at the charity's tactics. Oxfam complained to the Charity Commission at the end of January about the use of its name during telephone canvassing.

Children at Risk, based at the Spiro Building, Bridge Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, employs 40 staff, mainly women on a part-time basis. They are paid £4 an hour.

The charity raises money through emotive telephone sales. According to one source, employees are told they must sell at least £100 of advertising space per shift for a planned local business directory on the lines of the Thomson Local Directory. Sales staff use a prepared script when canvassing for advertisements.

"People are being deceived. They think 85 per cent of the cost of their advertisement is going to charity, and only 15 per cent is being used on administration. So far this has not been the case," the source said.

No directory has yet been produced, although one was promised within six months.

Oxfam said yesterday: "We are concerned about the operations and tactics of Children at Risk Fund and their use of Oxfam's good name."

Oxfam has asked the charity to stop using its name and for it to account for any funds received while Oxfam's name was being used.

It is believed that the Children at Risk Fund has raised more than £50,000 since its incorporation, the bulk since January when its telephone sales operation was stepped up. Mr Richard Hancock,

aged 44, of Lynton Avenue, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, the chairman and a trustee of the charity said: "Most of the income has gone on salaries and telephone bills. We do intend bringing out a directory later this year."

It is understood that the charity's last quarterly telephone bill was about £20,000.

Mr Hancock believed the police would exonerate the charity. "If they had found anything wrong they would have closed us on the spot."

References to Oxfam by sales staff had been a mistake and would not be repeated.

"We were sending money to Oxfam and expected to send more as a means of getting aid to Kampuchea," Mr Hancock said, adding that he had asked the Charity Commission to find another charity to whom Children at Risk could send its income.

"Eventually 85 per cent of our income will go to help water projects in Kampuchea. Every penny can be accounted for," he said.

The delay in producing a directory had been because Children at Risk wanted to ensure every business had an opportunity of advertising.

● The Charity Commission confirmed yesterday that it is to launch an inquiry into the collapse of War on Want, the Third World aid charity that is to be wound up.

War on Want has estimated debts of £2 million, including a £780,000 overdraft secured on its south-east London headquarters, which are for sale.

War on Want has estimated the money to help to repay two consortiums of British and European charities £1.7 million after they decided to pull out of joint financial long-term aid projects in Ethiopia and separate their accounts.

Part of the money also went on redundancy payments.

● Legislation to reform charity law and reduce the risk of fraud and maladministration in the £13 billion charitable sector is likely to be delayed for another year.

Senior Government officials said yesterday the parliamentary session beginning in November was already "choc-a-block" with planned Bills and that legislation on charities would probably have to wait until the session starting November 1991.

A LONE Rottweiler named Susie at No 10 a petition containing 300 signatures. It opposed the banning of Rottweilers or making their owners obtain special licences (Robin Young writes). Plans for up to 100 Rott-

weilers and their owners to march on Downing Street to present the petition were abandoned on Sunday because they could have coincided with an anti-apartheid demonstration. As it was, Susie, during her token appearance, didn't bare a tooth or put a paw out of place.

Leading article, page 13

Linley sues for libel over 'lager lout' story

By Michael Horsfall

LORD LINLEY became the first member of the Royal Family to bring a libel action to court yesterday when he sued a newspaper for portraying him as "an upper-class lager lout".

According to a gossip column report in *Today*, the Queen's nephew had been banned from a London public house after throwing a pint of beer at a group of friends. But the report was a fabrication, a High Court jury was told.

Lord Linley, aged 28, said: "My first instinct was to be incredibly angry due to the fact that it was totally untrue.

My second thought was that probably my family would read it and that it could have a damaging effect on them."

The son of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon is seeking damages against the newspaper's publishers, News (UK) Ltd.

Mr Charles Gray, QC, his counsel, told Mr Justice Michael Davies that the article, headlined "Hooray Linley's local says ale and farewell" appeared in the Chris Hutch-

ins *Confidential* column on March 23 last year.

It alleged he was banned from the Ferret and Firkin at Chelsea Harbour after a "childish beer-throwing incident involving David and a group of his chums".

In fact, Lord Linley had visited the public house only once, two years earlier, and had never engaged in hooligan behaviour, Mr Gray said.

"This story portrayed Lord Linley as a 'Hooray Henry' and described him as having behaved in the manner of an upper-class lager lout."

The next day, Lord Linley wrote to the newspaper seeking damages, an apology and a correction, but *Today* said it stood by its story.

In the article, Mrs Carolyn Peacock, the manageress of the public house, was alleged to have said: "Linley and about eight of his pals came in at luncheon and ordered a round of beer. He amazed everyone when he picked up his pint and cracked it over the others."

The article went on: "Before things got completely out of hand, I went over and told him that we cater only for adults and that he'd better go to the kindergarten playground next door."

"At that point one of his pals said, 'Do you know who this man is, madam?' I told them it made no difference to me and they could go outside and quietly pour beer over each other's heads, but not to throw it around in here."

At the end of the article Mrs Peacock was reported as saying: "David Linley is quite a regular here and he's nice when he's not being arrogant and throwing his money around like his beer. He often pops in but now we keep a close eye on him to make sure he doesn't get out of order."

Lord Linley noticed that the article was largely quotes attributed to Mrs Peacock, so he called to see her the next day. Mrs Peacock told him she had said nothing to any reporter about any such behaviour.

Mr Gray said it was right that someone in Lord Linley's position had to put up with the "persistent and sometimes rather unwelcome attentions of the press", but this time he felt the story was over the limit because it was fictitious.

The jury was asked to take into account the "high-handed way" in which *Today* dealt with the complaint, publishing an apology at the last minute six weeks ago.

Lord Linley said the Ferret and Firkin was not his "local" though he had once had a pleasant lunch there.

As chairman of David Linley Furniture, he feared the article could have damaged his business reputation. "Say I was going to a meeting with the bank or a company about to place a large order. The minute they read that I was seen splashing beer they perhaps would not place their order."

He added: "I have a lot of press comments and say one does harden oneself to certain matters of inaccuracy, but this was completely untrue and I felt they had gone too far."

"I was extremely hurt that it was alleged I should do anything like that."

Mrs Peacock told the court she had never spoken to any journalist about any such beer-throwing incident.

The case continues today.

● The last time a member of the Royal Family appeared in court is believed to have been during the Great Baccarat scandal of 1890, when a slander action was brought by a card player accused of cheating. The then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) gave evidence about the game, at which he was a player.

Turkish kidney donors 'told lies'

By John Young

AT LEAST two Turks lied when they claimed they were not seeking further payments for donating their kidneys, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Arridge, QC, said that when the Turks gave evidence to the hearing in December, they did not tell the whole truth because they had an interest to serve.

Mr Ferhat Usta and Mrs Hatice Antican had instructed a solicitor with a view to bringing a civil action, Mr Arridge said.

He was making his closing speech on behalf of Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street specialist who denies serious professional misconduct. Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, and Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, face similar charges in relation to four Turks said to have been paid for their kidneys.

Earlier, Mr Roger Henderson, QC for the GMC, had said the committee should bear in mind the civil claim which might have led the witnesses to exaggerate.

Mr Arridge said the case against the doctors was unsatisfactory, most obviously because of the absence of Mr Ata Nur Kunter. Mr Kunter and his brothers have been described as kidney brokers.

What the Turks said to Mr Kunter was inadmissible, and if that evidence was eliminated, the rest was circumstantial, Mr Arridge said.

The practice of paying donors had been known since 1985, but it had been outlawed only last summer. Should doctors "stay in their tents" or do they reasonably could to save lives?" Mr Arridge asked.

Resuming his closing speech earlier, Mr Henderson said Dr Crockett must have told "a pack of lies" about his knowledge of the relationship between Mr Ahmet Koc — who said his kidney had been stolen without his consent — and the recipient.

It would be a "monstrous wickedness" if Dr Crockett had been party to the duping of Mr Koc, Mr Henderson said. Such a thing would be unbelievable. But when it came to the payments, the committee could be certain what was going on.

It had to decide whether Mr Koc was telling an enormous pack of lies, having set out to sell his kidney or had he been duped by the Kunters and not realized what was happening until it was too late.

The case continues today.

Lawyers attack court work changes

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

PLANS by the Lord Chancellor's Department to allow court staff to take over a range of work from judges, including drawing up papers for "quicker" divorces, were criticized by the Law Society yesterday.

In its response to the department, the society said it would be "disastrous" to send more work down to officials at a time when staff in many courts cannot cope with the existing workload.

Now, the society says, would it be appropriate for an administrative official to decide whether a divorce should be granted or not?

The Lord Chancellor's Department says the reforms are aimed at freeing registrars, one of the junior judicial tiers, so that they can cope with an expected rise in county court work. However, the

Law Society says courts are already struggling with high staff turnover and problems in recruiting and retaining people of the right calibre.

The Lord Chancellor's Department issued a consultation paper in January proposing that a range of work be devolved to court officials.

The society is concerned that some of the functions chosen for devolution, such as consent orders and special procedure certificates, are too "judicial" in nature to be done by administrative staff. It says there should be judicial scrutiny of the documents.

However, it backs plans to empower administrators to rule on so-called attachment of earnings orders, and other proposals, including granting administrators authority in cases involving

debt collection, were acceptable subject to strict guidelines.

● The Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department are expected to drop plans to replace committal proceedings with an administrative paper procedure for sending cases direct to the crown court without a hearing.

It is now believed that officials will move towards a reform of the committal system that involves a paper transfer system only if both prosecution and defence agree, while preserving the defendant's right to insist on, and attend, a formal committal hearing.

The defence would have the right to a formal committal and both prosecution and defence would retain the right to a full "old-style" committal, with statements read or evidence called.

BBC apologizes to petrol industry over report errors

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

THE BBC apologized "unreservedly" to Shell UK and other leading oil companies yesterday for errors and misinformation in a *Watchdog* programme on petrol pricing.

The extent of the mistakes made by *Watchdog* in its consumer report broadcast on October 9 is reflected in the 480-word correction and apology the BBC has agreed to print in the forthcoming edition of *Radio Times*. A slightly shorter version will be screened at peak viewing times tonight on BBC 1 and tomorrow on BBC 2.

The BBC, which is proud of its impartial and accurate reporting, has been forced to make the embarrassing climb-down because of numerous inaccuracies and misleading statements in the item about the petrol industry and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) investigation into it.

The *Watchdog* presenter made accusations of profiteering and collusion by the petrol retailing industry and claimed to have an unpublished interim report from the commission to support the allegations. No such document existed.

An unnamed journalist who helped to make the programme has been reprimanded but will remain in the BBC's topical features section, the corporation said yes-

terday. Shell UK had feared that the timing of the *Watchdog* report could prejudice the outcome of the commission's inquiry into the petrol retailing business.

Mr Bob Reid, chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, said yesterday: "The account by *Watchdog* of how the petrol industry is run was inaccurate. It also misrepresented an MMC document as an 'interim report' and implied that the programme's critical and damaging conclusions were endorsed by the MMC. Subsequent developments have shown that to be totally untrue."

"We went to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission because a request to the BBC for a correction was refused. When the MMC's report appeared it showed that the case we put to the commission was irrefutable and that our request for a correction had been wholly reasonable."

"The MMC confirmed that the industry is efficient, highly competitive, operates in the public interest and gives good value to its customers."

The BBC said: "It is an honourable apology. We realize we got it wrong and we have said so. The item was unfair to Shell and the industry. When people are dealing with consumer affairs there are occasional lapses.

Hopefully we are big enough to accept that and apologize."

● The director-general and chairman of the BBC are not executive in a move to a new headquarters aimed at saving money and improving efficiency.

Mr Michael Checkland, the director-general, has decided that he will stay at Broadcasting House with Mr Marmaduke Hussey, the chairman, and a few aides while remaining senior corporate managers move to the £59 million development at White City, west London.

Many staff are reluctant to make the switch because of the shortage of facilities, including shops, and poor transport, compared to central London.

One of the main reasons for moving corporate staff now is Broadcasting House and a variety of rented offices, was to enable them to work together. Mr Checkland's decision has infuriated some colleagues.

The official reason for his decision flows from the abandonment of the third phase of the White City development, due to be completed in the late 1990s. Radio

will now remain at Broadcasting House. A spokesman said that it was felt that a small number of headquarters staff would also be better situated in central London.

The trust fund would be concerned with performers' welfare, maintenance of the arts, particularly in the theatre, and for education and training.

EUROPEAN cable television "pirates" have unwittingly provided £4.5 million for the welfare of British theatre performers and their industry.

A charity, the Equity Trust Fund, was set up yesterday by Equity, the actors' union, with the money contributed by cable companies in Belgium, The Netherlands and Denmark over the last six years.

The money had been paid by the companies for use of pirated programmes taken directly off transmission, and paid in fees of "moral" copyright right after negotiations by the BBC and the ITV companies.

Mr Peter Plourviez, Equity general secretary, said a third of the money paid to the television companies had gone to three bodies representing performers: Equity, the Musicians' Union and the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The sums invested annually by Equity had accumulated to £4.5 million.

The money would help a profession whose members, apart from a small minority of stars, were among the lowest paid workers in Britain, he said.

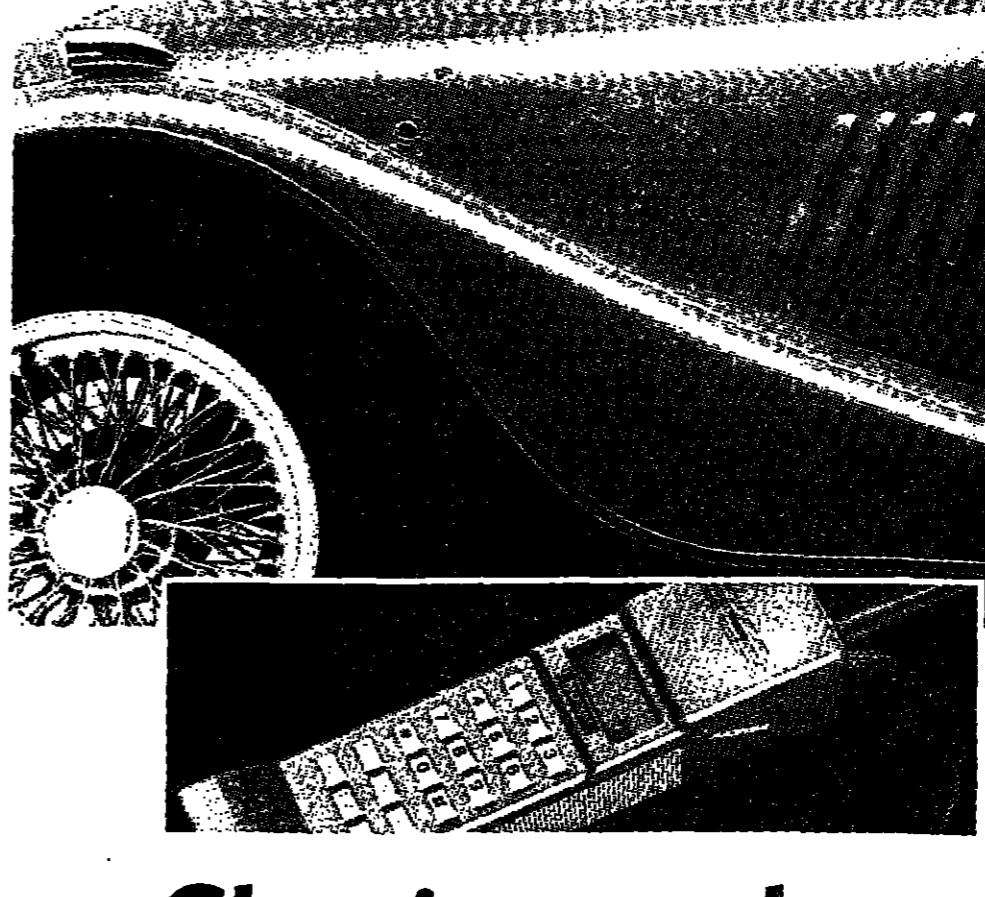
The trust fund would be concerned with performers' welfare, maintenance of the arts, particularly in the theatre, and for education and training.

Gentle Rottweiler's lonely message for No 10

PETER TRIENOR



Classic car



Contender in Runcie succession takes the Church to court

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

ONE of the leading contenders for the succession to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, became embroiled yesterday in a legal action against the Church of England's paymasters, the Church Commissioners.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, First Church Estates Commissioner, dismissed Bishop Harries' claim that his intentions were friendly, adding: "It will be seen as one part of the Church taking another to court and I cannot persuade myself that that's a very good idea."

While Bishop Harries was insisting he did not want to be Archbishop of Canterbury - and rather acting that way - another of the contenders, the Right Rev William Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough, set out a bold manifesto in yesterday's *Daily Mail*. "Whoever it is, I would offer him one biblical message," he wrote. "Be strong and of good courage."

The Church of England had become too concerned with minority interests, which left it with no message "for ordinary people who are making something of their lives," Bishop Westwood added.

The next archbishop should spend less time overseas. He should "give a positive expression of Christian faith". There was a massive spiritual vacuum in the nation "and the task of any Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of this century will be to lead the church to fill this vacuum".

Bishop Harries's law suit against the Church Commissioners, of which he is one himself, concerns the extent to

which the commissioners may take ethical considerations into account in their investment case.

"Our job is to protect and defend the parochial clergy. It is said that we have to use the money which should be going to them to do so. But I cannot allow their interests to go by default," he said.

"I am sure Dr Harries has the most friendly of motives. I wouldn't deny that. But I don't think you can have a friendly court action. I think it's a contradiction in terms."

Another strong candidate for Canterbury, Dr Robert Eames, the Archbishop of Armagh, refused to give any press interviews yesterday, although as recently as last week he discussed his prospects on a local radio programme in Northern Ireland.

"It is not for anyone to say they would welcome or not welcome any challenge," he had said.

The Prime Minister had shown "at times, I think, a willingness to listen to anything that I have had to say" and to "acknowledge" it.

Dr Runcie announced on Sunday that he had submitted his resignation to the Queen, and he will retire at the end of next January, eight months before his 70th birthday.

Mr Tony Benn, the Labour MP, yesterday challenged the Church of England to put forward only one name for Dr Runcie's successor to Mrs Thatcher for approval - and said she should endorse it without question. In a Commons motion he states that "the control of the Church of England by the state is a dangerous anachronism" that ought to end.

MR GARY BEVANS, a signwriter with no formal artistic training, with reproductions of Michelangelo's paintings in the Sistine Chapel which he has painted in the Holy Martyrs Catholic church in Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. The church is an otherwise undistinguished prefabricated building which happens to be the same width as the original in Rome.

The inspiration for Mr Bevans's labour of love came from a parishioner's trip to Rome. The signwriter has been named Man of the Year by Worthing Council and his work has already attracted 5,000 visitors.

There has been some success in raising money for the project by asking £50 for the right to dedicate each of the plywood panels on which Mr Bevans makes his paintings, but he says he would be glad of more sponsorship.

ceiling, sometimes until two am. Michelangelo took four years to paint the original, but he did not have to earn a living by day painting pub signs and doing lettering on vans.

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Hard fight as Karpov wins place in finals

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

ANATOLY Karpov, the Soviet former world chess champion, has emerged victorious with consummate ease in his world title qualifying match in Kuala Lumpur against Jan Timman, the Dutch grandmaster. He dominated the match from the start and yesterday clinched victory in a hard-fought ninth game.

This win with the black pieces gave Karpov the 6½ points needed to win the best-of-12 match and ensure a renewed challenge against his arch-rival, Gary Kasparov, the world champion.

While the Sistine Chapel has just reopened after restoration, Mr Bevans still has many months' work ahead of him completing the only copy outside Rome (Robin Young writes).

He has worked 50 hours a week for two years on the

Privatized sector shines in list of top companies

By David Young

SOME companies once seen as ugly ducklings or even as lame ducks have emerged as highly profitable swans under the Government's privatization programme.

The policy of removing state shackles and launching companies into the private sector, often with their customers as shareholders, has created four of the country's 20 most profitable companies per employee, with one of them emerging as the most profitable company in Britain and the highest wages payer.

Enterprise Oil, created from the former oil exploration assets held by British Gas, last year made profits of £288,500 per employee and paid its 234 staff an average of £32,100 and its directors an average of £77,857. In addition, British Telecom, another former state-owned company, has emerged overall as the most profitable company in Britain, with pre-tax profits last year of £2.4 billion.

The performance of former state-owned companies will be welcomed by the Government in the week that it takes the electricity industry into the private sector with the creation of 16 new companies that will be privatized this autumn and early next year.

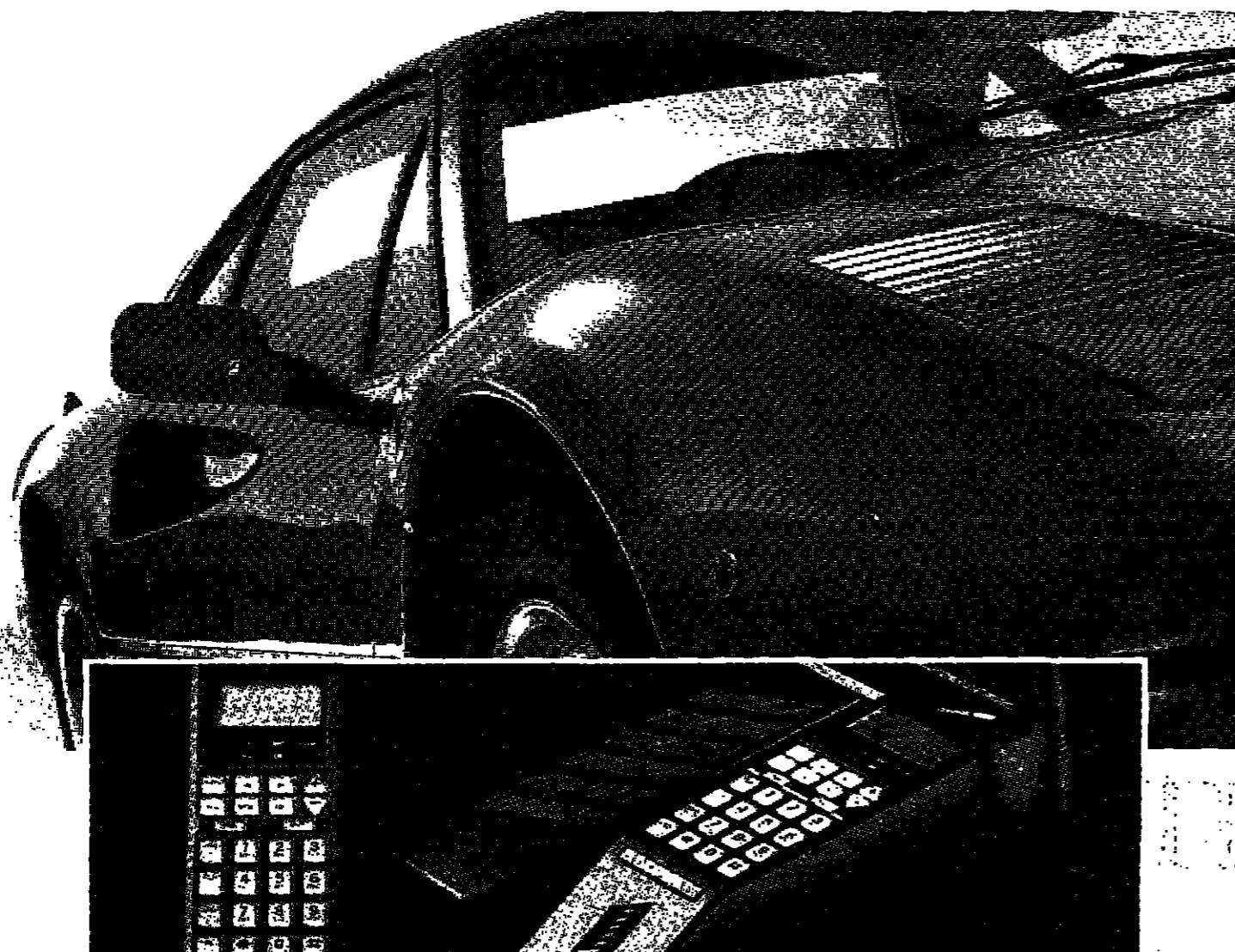
Many of the figures used by the magazine *Management Today* for its league table, published today, have been gleaned from company reports for the previous financial year and higher profits are expected from British Steel, British Airways and British Telecom.

Enterprise Oil, recently the subject of takeover speculation in the City, has built on the inheritance it received from the Government in the shape of substantial oil discoveries earlier made by British Gas. It has also, however, been aggressive in the world oil exploration market.

However the figures also show that some of the best known business names and recent stock market favourites such as Lomco, Asda, Whitbread, Tesco, Sainsbury and Marks & Spencer are among

Payers' table, page 28

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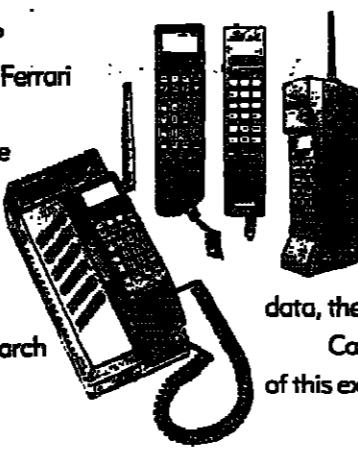
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Royal Mail

One-day teachers' strike called after 36% back protest

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

ALMOST a quarter of state school teachers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are to stage a one-day strike on Wednesday, April 4, in protest at the Government's decision to impose an 8.3 per cent pay deal.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers issued the strike call yesterday in spite of securing the support of only just over one in three of its 98,000 state school members for industrial action.

In a ballot, 35,450 (61.8 per cent of those voting) were in favour of striking and 21,949 (38.2 per cent) against. The turnout was 57,399, just over half of the union's members and an eighth of the teaching force.

The result came after intense lobbying characterised by last-minute staffroom pleas by branch officials for support for the strike. The larger National Union of Teachers has refused to join in the action.

The strike call was condemned by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science,

who described it as "completely unjustified".

"I am deeply disappointed that the NAS/UWT has elected to deprive children of a day of education at what, for many, is a crucial time of the year and to do so on the positive support of only one-third of their members," he said.

"It will simply distract attention from the hard work and professional commitment which the great majority of teachers are showing and for which they deserve public recognition."

Mr Fred Smithies, the union's general secretary, said that he was confident his members would support what he termed "the minimum possible tangible protest action available to teachers".

He rejected any suggestion that the strike would antagonise parents and said: "Only those parents who wish to take a doctrinaire political view will feel aggrieved."

Teachers had to show the Government that they had "the will to resist yet another pay cut imposed on them by the Government". Dismissing

questions about the size of the vote in favour of action, Mr Smithies said: "The Prime Minister has never enjoyed more than the support of 33 per cent of the electorate and we have 36 per cent for our strike."

Two years ago the NAS/UWT had to abandon a similar attempt to get teachers to strike over pay after only just over a third of its state school members turned out to vote.

In the past the union has ensured maximum support for its industrial action by making clear that it would not hesitate to discipline members who refused to strike.

However, since the last round of teachers' strikes ended in 1987 legislation has deprived unions of the power to punish members who ignore strike calls.

Union leaders conceded yesterday that even if they managed to persuade a majority of their members to strike it was highly unlikely that any schools would be closed although several thousand children were likely to be sent home.

Welsh craftsmanship comes out on top

NICK GOLDFINGER

By Ruth Gledhill

THE devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo has opened up an unexpected source of revenue for Mr Alfred Richardson, a retired Welsh slater, and Mr Bill Pendleton, his colleague.

Mr Richardson, aged 65, from Prestatyn, Clwyd, was flown to Charleston, South Carolina with Mr Pendleton, aged 43, to repair a 300-year-old roof ripped apart by the hurricane on a six-bedroom house.

Mr Philip Middleton, its owner, hired the Welshmen because they possessed technical skills local labour could not match.

Their work was admired by the Prince of Wales when he saw the house on a visit to the town last month.

Mr Middleton, a lawyer, said: "I talked to any number of Americans about their capacity to slate a roof. They all told me they were experts. But I had been briefed on a couple of key questions to ask them and no American could answer those."

Mr Richardson, from Prestatyn, Clwyd, is using states from a Welsh quarry matched to samples of the original slate. He said he had been inundated with offers of work in the historic town but his visa restricts him to working for one man.

He added: "We have had bad weather in Wales but I have never seen anything as bad as this place."



Mr Richardson (left) and Mr Pendleton at work on the roof, whose owner could not find Americans to match their skills



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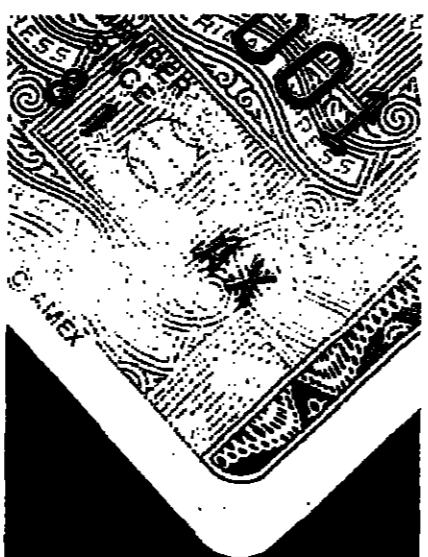
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FOR SOME, LIFE'S TRUE VALUES ARE EASY TO RECOGNISE

Met chief foresees women in senior posts

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

BRITAIN could have its first woman chief constable within ten years, Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said yesterday.

Speaking at the unveiling of a report outlining five-year programme to provide equal opportunities within his own force, Sir Peter said: "We have some very bright and good lady officers rising through the ranks. I think we will probably see a female chief constable within the next ten years."

Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, added that women officers had reached senior levels in two forces. One is an assistant chief constable in Merseyside and the other an acting deputy assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard.

Last year, a Home Office circular was sent to all chief constables giving guidance on equal opportunities. Mr Waddington said.

The Home Office was looking into the feasibility of part-time work, and Scotland Yard had asked it for advice on the introduction of job sharing.

The police were having difficulty attracting recruits because of the declining number of school leavers, and the service had to recruit more women, especially from the ethnic minorities.

The report on the London programme, carried out with the help of the Equal Opportunities Commission, shows that the number of women police officers in the force rose from 6.7 per cent in 1978 to over 12 per cent in 1989, at a time when the force strength in the same period had risen from 22,197 to 28,267.

A quarter of all applicants for police jobs are now women, and they make up 24 per cent of all successful recruits. The force has nine female officers in its superintendent ranks and 38 among the inspectors' ranks.

Bomb hoaxter jailed

A MAN was jailed for nine months yesterday after admitting sending a hoax bomb to the Queen while she and other members of the Royal family were at Sandringham, Norfolk.

At King's Lynn Crown Court, Mr Charles Kellett, prosecuting, said John Pryse-Jones, aged 58, of Rhiwau Court, Hunstanton, Norfolk, had a previous conviction for sending a hoax bomb to Mr Henry Bellingham, MP for Norfolk North West.

£80,000 award

VISCOUNT Raynham won £80,000 agreed damages at the High Court yesterday over the death of his wife in a crash at East Rudham, near King's Lynn, Norfolk, in December 1985. The award was against the estate of the other driver who was also killed.

Mother held

A MOTHER who admitted strangling her two children was sent to a mental hospital indefinitely yesterday. The Central Criminal Court was told that Julia Phillips, aged 31, of Limpstield, Surrey, had paranoid schizophrenia and thought neighbours were going to sexually abuse the children.

Chemical seized

THIRTY gallons of a highly toxic chemical prohibited world-wide have been seized by the Ministry of Agriculture in Herefordshire. The pesticide Endrin, which has not been manufactured since 1983, is being used as a poison by gamekeepers.

Safety failing

TRANSMANCHE Link, the consortium building the Channel tunnel, was fined £50,000 yesterday at Maidstone Crown Court, Kent, when it admitted failing to take precautions to ensure its employees' safety.

Inquest opens

AN INQUEST into the death of Farzad Bazoft, the *Observer* newspaper correspondent executed in Iraq as an alleged spy, was opened and adjourned at St Pancras Coroner's Court, London, yesterday.

March 26 1990

PARLIAMENT

Peers protest at move on under-18 loans

GOVERNMENT and Opposition peers protested at a late attempt to amend the Education (Student Loans) Bill to correct an oversight by civil servants over repayment by students under the age of 18.

The amendment, tabled by the Government last Thursday, will exempt students under the age of 18 from paying interest on the loans and give the Government immunity under the Consumer Credit Act to send loan literature to minors.

At the report stage of the Bill started, Lord Belstead, Leader of the House, refused to withdraw the amendment, but promised peers that the Government would not seek to bulldoze it through.

Lord Clewtha of Pembs, Leader of the Opposition Peers, said that the amendment had been intended to correct a defect in the Bill because it was found to be incompatible with the Consumer Credit Act, 1974.

"The introduction of minors into

the Bill is a complex and new dimension to the whole Bill. The fact that it is unlawful to charge interest to minors was in fact overlooked when the Bill was first drafted."

The amendment was likely to affect some 100,000 students, mostly in Scotland where more students entered college at 17, and there was some doubt about the accuracy of the Government's proposed amendment.

"The Opposition is asking for more time to consider all the implications of the new amendment which are very considerable, the legal implications and the administrative implications."

"I hope that the Leader of the House will now defer the amendment to enable those who are interested in this Bill to have more time. I think it is important that the House on report should be given an opportunity to consider this new development."

Lord Belstead said that the Gov-

HOUSE OF LORDS

ernment amendment had been tabled on Thursday and the Labour and Liberal Democrat whips had been informed that day because issues were involved which had not been debated before.

Lord Festus, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said that the way the amendment had been introduced was very unsatisfactory. The Government should not proceed at a pace which did not allow detailed consideration.

He had been told by an expert that the Consumer Credit Act was very complicated and it would be "foolhardy beyond belief" to get involved without full advice and briefing.

"This is an extremely serious matter and I am not in a position to decide this amendment today."

Lord Belstead said that it was

precisely because the amendment concerned an untied piece of legislation that the Opposition had been informed.

Lord Beloff (C) said that he had no view on the amendment which he had only just seen.

"I would like to point out that a Bill of this kind is not simply a matter for the two main Opposition parties. Most of us left the House late on Thursday afternoon or early in the evening, not having had an opportunity of seeing this amendment."

"I first heard about this problem when I read the report in *The Times*. I think the whole House is entitled to be informed about the Government's amendment in time at least to have a weekend to consider it and not for it to be tabled in a way which really makes the position of members and of the Opposition front bench almost untenable."

Lord Belstead said that the House

had had a weekend to consider the amendment. The Government had acted in an open and honourable way. It was right that the amendment should be considered on its merits.

Lord Clewtha of Pembs said that the Leader of the House was being uncharacteristically inflexible. The amendment had been tabled in the House, including government peers, when it had been tabled and the whips informed.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C) said that the amendment stretched the terms of the Consumer Credit Act in order to make an exception. That might be valid, but it would not be possible to take the Bill on its merits without considering that very complicated act.

Lord Belstead said that he could not accept that the Government had acted in an unreasonable way and, for that reason, he would not

withdraw the amendment. "What we ought to do is for the amendment to be moved and to be debated and if Lords then think, having listened to the debate, that it is wholly reasonable, then it should go to the statute book. We must listen to the majority voice of the House. The Government will not seek to bulldoze it through."

In a Commons written answer, Mr MacGregor said: I am now able to announce that the Government intends that the repayment period for students on courses that are longer than four years should be initially seven years. The standard repayment period for other students will be initially five years.

This will ensure that repayments are manageable for students on courses longer than four years, who will build up larger liabilities during their course. As the student debt and loans increase in real terms, the standard repayment period will be extended. The repayment period for those on longer courses will be similarly extended.

notably, on those students who were facing relatively high costs for their accommodation.

The necessary supplementary estimates approved for the additional expenditure of £10 million in 1990-91 will be sought in due course.

In a further written answer, Mr MacGregor said: I am now able to announce that the Government intends that the repayment period for students on courses that are longer than four years should be initially seven years. The standard repayment period for other students will be initially five years.

This will give the higher education institutions greater scope for extending discretionary assistance on a flexible basis to their students. The move would have an effect, most

Ministers act on social fund after court ruling

MINISTERS have acted to put beyond doubt that the Secretary of State for Social Security can specify who is eligible for payments from the social fund.

The move comes after a ruling in the High Court last month.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security, said in a statement that he had introduced an amendment to the Social Security Bill at present before Parliament to make explicit the power of the Secretary of State to give directions on the control of the social fund, from which grants and loans are made for specific purposes to people receiving income support.

He also announced a £10 million increase in the gross allocation to the fund, to £215 million for 1990-91.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social security, said that the statement was an incompetent, cynical and dishonest response to the judgement.

Mr Scott said that the statement arose from a High Court judgement on applications for judicial review in three cases concerning the social fund. That had confirmed the power to give directions for control and management of the fund, and confirmed the directions on how social fund inspectors were to review decisions, but found that some aspects of the guidance on budgets was too prescriptive, and therefore not valid as guidance.

The Department of Social Security was today issuing new guidance to all social fund offices to take account of the court's decision that some of the guidance on the budget in the social fund manual had been couched in language that was too prescriptive for guidance.

There would also be guidance today about applications for review from people who might have had objections to the fund rejected on grounds of insufficient priority because of budgetary constraints. A leaflet for the public providing information on the matter was being distributed to DSS local offices.

From the date of the judgement cases should not have been refused on the basis of defective guidance, but if any applications were dissatisfied with the social fund office's decision in their case, they had the right to request a review.

In the light of the judgement, he was introducing an amendment to the Social Security Bill.

Changes to the social fund scheme to be made from April 9 would mean that people over 50 might qualify for grants while retaining up to £1,000 in savings, instead of £500. The amount of maternity expenses payable would increase from £35 to £100.

He had announced last year that the gross allocation for discretionary payments in 1990-91 would be £205 million, but experience of operating the loans element of the fund had clearly shown that it would be possible to use the available resources even more flexibly next year through recirculation of repayments returning to the fund.

"I am now able to increase the gross allocation by a further £10 million for 1990-91 to £215 million. This means that the gross budget for 1990-91 will be £12 million higher than the

SOCIAL SECURITY

allocation made in April 1989.

The £215 million will be divided to provide £152 million for grants and £63 million for loans. As in previous years, I shall be holding back £2 million as a contingency reserve."

In allocating budgets to local offices, the DSS had included the value of the additional allocations amounting to £3 million made in December and January to 106 offices facing particular pressure.

All the department's 448 local offices would have a higher allocation next year and 15 per cent of the offices would have increases of 10 per cent or more on April 1989 allocations. Nearly three-quarters of them would get increases of 5 per cent or more.

The measures would ensure that the fund continued to be a fair and flexible scheme for those most in need (Labour leader).

Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Lancaster, C) asked what ministers would do if an office ran out of money.

Mr Scott said that no office had run out of money or was in danger of doing so.

Mr Ted Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Lab) asked whether the new guidance would allow payments for housing repairs.

Mr Scott said that, apart from the Social Fund, income support could provide help with housing repairs and the Department of the Environment also had schemes.

Mrs Andrea Wise (Preston, Lab) said the minister could not know if payments were equitable if it was not known the priority given, for example, to paying for a pair of shoes.

Mr Scott said York University was carrying out a monitoring of the effect of the social fund. The report would be made next year.

Mr Patrick Thompson (Norwich North, C) welcomed the extra money, but asked how constituents who had previously been refused claims could reapply.

Mr Scott said an applicant had only to go along and ask for their case to be reviewed by the local office and that would be done in the light of the new guidance.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, P.C. called for an assurance that no top priority cases would be refused help because of lack of money.

Mr Scott replied that he could see no reason why the needs of those with the highest priority should not be able to meet.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C) said that a problem arose if more people were in need than there was cash available.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) said Mr Scott had admitted that the amount was going to be less next year, taking inflation into account.

Instead of running to the television to twist words and give people the idea that this was a real advance, he should go to "cardboard city" and address people there who had finished up in a heap because they had been unable to get the proper grants which used to be available.

Mr Scott said that in practice, the allocation for the coming year, compared with the allocation last year, would be broadly in line with the index.

Mr Scott said that that would be a matter for individual

judgement by social fund offices in the circumstances of the case.

The proportion of grants and loans was broadly the same as that for last year.

Mr Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat spokesman on health, said that only one in ten of offices would have increases in their budgets to keep pace with inflation and these figures were distorted because many people had not bothered to claim in the first place. They knew that any help would be in the form of a loan which would come off their benefits.

Mr Scott said it was not inflation which had to be borne in mind. It was the level of need and the flexibility with which the department was able to react.

The income support case load has gone down. It would be possible to make out a case for reducing the budget. In fact, the Government had increased it.

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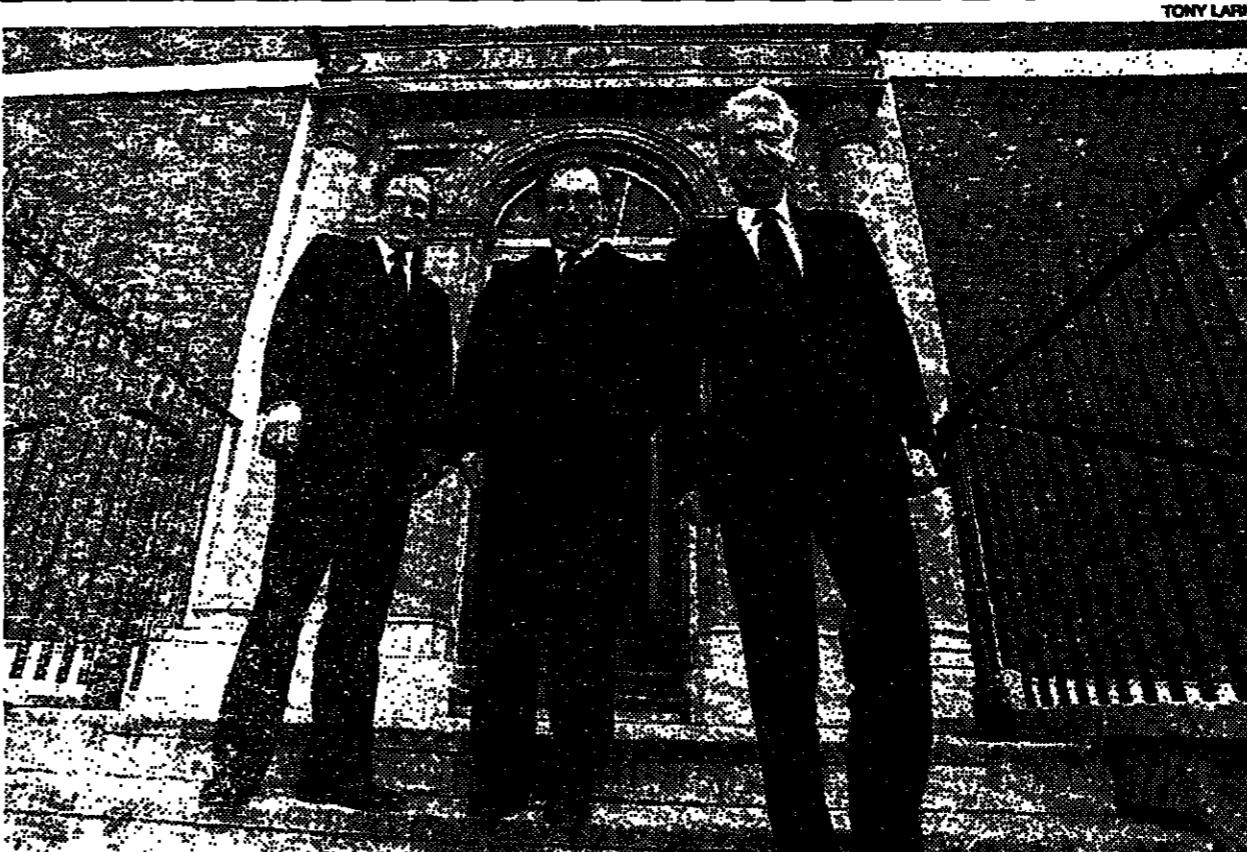
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Mr David Hunt (left), who is due soon to take up the office of Secretary of State for Wales from Mr Peter Walker (right), outside the Welsh Office in Whitehall yesterday with Herr Lothar Späth, Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg. Herr Späth will be visiting Wales next week with a team of businessmen

Timetable for joining ERM too leisurely, says Lawson

THE TIMETABLE envisaged by the Government for joining the exchange-rate mechanism or the European Monetary System might be somewhat too leisurely for the circumstances in which the country found itself, Mr Nigel Lawson, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said during the resumed debate on the Budget.

"In my judgement, it is a pity we did not join some time ago, but we did not. We cannot afford to take the risks involved in a leisurely timetable."

He described non-membership of the mechanism as an exposed flank, and suggested that Britain should join the mechanism, if necessary within the wider bands of adjustment available, rather than the narrower ones.

He said that Mr Major, the Chancellor, had said that he favoured a strong exchange rate, but it might be that words alone were not enough.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, opening the fourth and final day of the Budget, said that the past seven years had seen unprecedented growth in employment.

He said that Mr Major, the Chancellor, had said that he favoured a strong exchange rate, but it might be that words alone were not enough.

Mr Howard said that Britain had joined the ERM in 1990, but had not yet fully implemented the rules of the system.

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Lithuania keeps up guard after talks with Army

From Anatol Levin, Vilnius

A STANDSTILL agreement may have been reached between the Soviet Army and the Lithuanian leadership, members of which were yesterday cautiously optimistic about the possible opening of negotiations with Moscow.

Mr Romualdas Ozolas, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the agreement might "provide the basis for negotiations at a higher level", but he warned the country: "Don't drop your guard."

As if to reinforce his words, several military helicopters flew low over Vilnius yesterday afternoon, scattering unsigned leaflets denouncing independence and declaring that "the leaders of Sajudis seized power to fulfil their ambitions, and their aims are directed against the people".

The leaders went on to invite people to a rally outside the parliament building at 4pm today.

Two teaching institutes belonging to the Soviet Communist Party were yesterday still occupied by troops, but students and teachers were allowed free access.

The troops, young conscripts, seemed rather bewildered and embarrassed by their role.

Talking to the press about the meeting yesterday morning between government representatives and two officers from the Soviet Army and the Ministry of the Interior, Mr Ozolas declared: "It is safe to say the most dangerous moment has passed."

The tension among Lithuanian leaders and deputies has dropped sharply since the report of an imminent seizure of parliament by the Soviet loyalist Yedinstvo movement which alarmed Mr Ozolas on Sunday night.

The two officers were sent by General Valentin Varennikov, who is with the troops in Lithuania and seems to be conducting a form of "field policy", presumably on behalf of the Kremlin.

Mr Ozolas said: "It seems that the upper echelons of the armed forces, who yesterday did not appear to have a clear line, do not want to take advantage of a situation in them-

seves. Today, if the Army's intention was, in part, to seize symbolic institutions, the symbolism seems empty given the Communist Party's decay.

The Soviet officers, meanwhile, raised the question of a Soviet soldier supposedly beaten up on Sunday in the town of Saulė, and of other Soviet soldiers "insulted".

The Lithuanian government has set up a co-ordinating group to try to avoid clashes and "provocation". It is, however, not yet clear if representatives of the Army will take part in this on a regular basis.

Seeming to have recovered from his pessimism of Sunday night, Mr Ozolas said that "talks about technicalities with the Army are not really about technicalities. They are an attempt to open up a larger question of the Army being here at all."

Lithuanian representatives were to leave last night for Moscow to meet US Senator Edward Kennedy, who is visiting the Soviet Union, and Mr Ozolas did not rule out that they might have talks with the Kremlin.

"I believe that contact with Mr Gorbachov already exists," he said, refusing to give details of what this might be.

The Soviet Army, having occupied symbolic points in the city, and made the point that it must be consulted, seems to have no wish to take matters further for the moment.

Both sides are refraining from using their more dangerous weapons on the Soviet side, overpowering military force; on the part of the Lithuanian leadership, the calling of mass demonstration against the Army's presence in the country.

Throughout Vilnius yesterday, life continued as normal. Even the students going into their institutes past the troops on duty did so without giving any appearance of fearing serious danger.

The buildings occupied by the Army on the grounds that they belong to the Communist Party would only two years ago have been of great political importance in them.

US puts treaties on the line to deter use of force

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

PRESIDENT BUSH is prepared to sacrifice prospective arms control treaties and trade agreements with the Soviet Union if Moscow takes forceful action against Lithuania and seems to be conducting a form of "field policy", presumably on behalf of the Kremlin.

Despite the apparent easing of tension in Vilnius yesterday after the talks between senior Soviet Army officers and Lithuanian officials, the US considers that the action taken so far by Mr Gorbachov is following "a dangerous direction".

While the British Government is taking a more sanguine view of Mr Gorbachov's dilemma in dealing with the secessionists in Lithuania, Washington is now ready to adopt a much tougher approach.

So far Mr Bush has kept his public statements restrained in the hope that Mr Gorbachov would keep his promise to resolve the Lithuanian problem through dialogue, not force.

However, the US official made it clear yesterday in Washington's eyes, the definition of force was not just "shooting people in the

streets". He said: "The Soviets may interpret force in different ways.

"But using tanks to put Moscow back in control of Lithuania would be viewed as force in our eyes." So too, would a declaration of martial law or a state of emergency.

The official said: "There might not be much force used but it would have the same effect on the independence process in Lithuania." Any such move by Moscow would "definitely have serious implications for our relations with the Soviet Union".

The official said it would not mean a state of "deep freeze" between Washington and Moscow. The US did not want "to make life difficult for Mr Gorbachov" but the atmosphere of trust that had grown between Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov would be damaged.

Any attempt to crush Lithuania's fight for self-determination would have a "knock-on effect" on the arms control negotiations, now making good progress, and on the two-plus-four talks on German reunification being held between the US, the

Soviet Union, Britain, France and the two Germans.

It would also slow down the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna, and that would rule out a summit planned for the end of the year to sign an arms treaty and to discuss the future security of Europe.

American trade agreements with the Soviet Union would have to come under scrutiny because under US legislation, trade with Moscow was linked to human rights, the official said.

British officials understand Mr Gorbachov's difficulties.

He has legislation before the Supreme Soviet which would create the mechanism for secession by the republics and he needs to show a strong hand in dealing with Lithuania's unilateral declaration.

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Albanian suspects rounded up

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

SERBIAN police who took over direct control in the Kosovo region began rounding up Albanian suspects alleged to have used the poison scare to launch an attack against the Serbian population while 2,500 armed Serbian policemen joined another Serbian force of 2,000 stationed in the region since last month.

Mr Radmilo Bogdanovic, the Serbian police chief, said police units were now in charge in all towns and settlements in the province.

At least 25 Albanians were arrested in the main hospital in Pristina, but many more are believed to have been rounded up, among them the medical staff in the hospital including some prominent Albanian doctors who have been treating the Albanians for suspected poisoning.

"We are identifying organizers of assaults against the Serbs as well as the perpetrators of the alleged poisoning among Albanians," Mr Bogdanovic said.

The regional police chief,

Mr Yusuf Karakushi, himself an Albanian who was largely regarded as a Serbian stooge, resigned after the Serbs accused Albanian policemen of failing to protect them and even joining the angry crowd in beating up the Serbs.

The regional presidency said in a statement the situation threatened to become tragic and appealed to people not to listen to propaganda from either side.

A show of force was evident as Serbia took control over security while the hardline Serbian leadership went out of its way to reassure the Serbs that it would stamp out separatism. It pledged to go ahead with its programme to bring in 100,000 Serbian settlers by the summer while expelling Albanian immigrants.

Western governments have already warned that such a move would have serious international repercussions, while the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has demanded further information, leaving no doubt of the serious view that would

East and West find friendship in Kremlin



President Gorbachov and Senator Edward Kennedy sharing a joke in the Kremlin. Mr Kennedy, on his fourth visit to the Soviet Union, told reporters he would be discussing arms control, human rights and economic co-operation. He also planned to meet ordinary Soviet citizens

Voting blow to Kohl

From Ian Murray
Berlin

THE West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, may have scored a personal triumph in the East German elections, but things are not going so well for him at home.

On Sunday, for the first time, his Christian Democrats (CDU) were beaten into second place in local elections in Schleswig-Holstein by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). The Chancellor's rush to reunification appears to be an important reason for the narrow but significant defeat.

Deputies here were pointing out yesterday that the Estonians have for some time had a system of guards checking goods passing in and out of their republic without this having caused conflict with Moscow.

The Kremlin is still trying to increase the deep splits already existing between the Sajudis leadership and that of the Lithuanian Communist Party, by keeping open its old lines of communication to Mr Brazauskas and the old ministers, rather than to Mrs Kazimira Prusciene, the new Prime Minister.

President Landsbergis complained about this to parliament yesterday morning and Mr Zigmantas Vaisvila, a leading Sajudis deputy, said: "For two days Mr Brazauskas has been smiling – so perhaps he knows something from Moscow that we don't."

The buildings occupied by the Army on the grounds that they belong to the Communist Party would only two years ago have been of great political importance in them.

President Gorbachov's decision to postpone the election of a new president until next year has been welcomed by the CDU.

Mr Kohl's party has

Honecker treason charge dropped

From Anne McElroy, East Berlin

EAST GERMANY'S state prosecutor announced yesterday that charges of treason and conspiracy levelled at Herr Erich Honecker, the leader of the Socialist Democratic Party, relinquished his posts within the party pending the clarification of allegations that he was a Stasi informant.

Similar charges were denied last week by Herr Lothar de Maiziere, the leader of the Christian Democrats, the strongest party in the new Parliament.

Herr Joseph said further charges of corruption and abuse of office would be pursued against Herr Honecker, Herr Günter Mittag, his economic chief, and Herr Erich Mielke, head of state security.

Herr Joschim Herrmann, the former media chief who was facing treason charges only, will be released from prison in the next few days.

After the announcement, Mr Ingmar Wagner, the leader of the Danish Communist Party, renewed his offer of sanctuary in Copenhagen to Herr Honecker and his wife, Margot, the former Education Minister.

The couple are known to be anxious to leave East Germany but will not be given exit visas until the remaining charges have been examined.

An attempt to move them from the vicarage outside East Berlin to a government house in the country at the weekend failed when residents attacked the van carrying the couple.

Legal experts have expected that the charge of treason was not tenable within existing East German law which defines the crime as "conspiring to overthrow the socialist order in the state".

Many East Germans believe that the change, which was brought about by the Stasi for many years as a dissident priest and as such is one of the few East German politicians to be considered above suspicion of complicity.

The current pause in South Korea's economic fortunes is

Moscow seeks firmer Seoul ties

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

THE Soviet Union and South Korea, which established consular offices in each other's capitals last year, are to accelerate progress towards full diplomatic relations, it was announced yesterday.

The announcement was made by Mr Kim Young Sam, co-chairman of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, at the end of a week-long visit to the Soviet Union, which he described as "a completely new chapter" in relations between the two countries.

As a transitional stage Moscow and Seoul are to establish full consular relations.

Although the visit was technically private – at the invitation of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations – it included meetings with Politburo member Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, the Central Committee chairman for international affairs, Mr Yevgeni Primakov, the chairman of one of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet, a deputy Soviet industry minister, and many other senior officials.

Mr Kim's party included a large number of South Korean officials and businessmen.

There were reports – which Mr Kim would not confirm – that he had also been received by President Gorbachov. Given the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries, such a meeting would be highly unusual.

Moscow is believed to be particularly interested in expanding relations with South Korea because of its status as an underdeveloped country which quickly became a manufacturing success. The fact that its products tend to be cheaper and generally less sophisticated than Japanese products adds to its attraction as an economic partner for the Soviet Union.

The improvement of relations with South Korea seems to have been given priority by the Soviet leadership over the past year, as attempts to court Japan came to nothing and hopes of a rapid change for the better in relations with China were frustrated by the gradual return to ideological and economic orthodoxy following the Tiananmen Square killings last June.

Bulgaria and Mongolia, which also had relations only with North Korea, have in the past week announced their intention of normalizing relations with the South.

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

future shape of Europe and the pace of further developments in the European Community.

M Mr Rocard is understood to have conveyed the French Government's view that the European Community should open talks on monetary union by the middle of 1991.

With this in mind, the French would favour the early convening of an inter-governmental conference on monetary integration.

They would also like to see its scope widened to include the issue of political union.

The British Government is sceptical about trying to bring forward the proposed inter-governmental conference.

It has agreed to it starting at the end of this year but still thinks that is premature.

There are also differing views as to whether tentative agreement on the issues involved should be reached before such a conference gets

Stalemate over European union

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

with a view to some form of agreement by the start of 1993.

The French hope is that there should be agreement on establishing economic and monetary union by the middle of 1991.

With this in mind, the European Community should not move in the direction of greater centralized control and less democracy at the very time the greatest part of the world was moving away from such ideas.

The Downing Street talks centred on developments in Europe, German unification and its consequences for the European Community as a whole.

Earlier Mr Rocard had talked with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. He also met Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

underway. "You don't need to have a consensus to start such a conference but you do need one to end it," said one Whitehall source.

Mrs Thatcher reiterated her view that the European Community should not move in the direction of greater centralized control and less democracy at the very time the greatest part of the world was moving away from such ideas.

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EC Finance Ministers will discuss the apparently contradictory reports at Ashford Castle, County Mayo, in the Irish Republic on Saturday.

The Irish Government, which holds the EC presidency, has played down the apparently conflicting attitudes on measures to tighten governments' spending. A spokesman for the presidency admitted yesterday, however, that "there was still a battle to be fought".

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Centre right claims poll triumph in Hungary

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

HUNGARY'S centre-right opposition party, the Democratic Forum, emerged yesterday as the country's most popular party in the first free election in more than 45 years.

With 60 per cent of the vote counted, it captured 25 per cent of the vote while its closest rival, the radical Alliance of Free Democrats, drew 20 per cent.

Results were delayed 24 hours by a computer breakdown.

Dr Jozsef Antall, president of the Democratic Forum and the likely new prime minister, said unequivocally: "We can qualify as the winner from these results and see in the second round of voting a chance to improve. This will definitely put us in the position of forming a new government."

However, Mr Janos Kis, a leader of the Free Democrats, also held out a possibility of leading after the second round.

"We are confident we can overtake the Forum when the final mandates for parliamentary seats are decided," he said.

The Smallholders' Party, which advocates a radical land reform programme, was in third place with almost 13 per cent of the vote, less than expected but enough to make it a power broker in forming a coalition government.

Mr Rezo Nyers, president of the Socialist Party, said it was ready to join a coalition with the Democratic Forum if asked.

However, Dr Antall said his party's closest allies were the Smallholders and the Christian Democrats, and both the Democratic Forum and the Free Democrats have ruled out any Socialist Party role in the government.

The Socialists, the breakaway reform wing of the old Communist Party, made a surprisingly strong showing with 10 per cent.

But there was an embarrassing defeat for Mr Imre Pozsgay, the party's most outspoken reformer and once the country's most popular politician, who came in third behind fiercely anti-communist candidates from the Democratic Forum and the League of Young Democrats.

Mr Pozsgay said he was disappointed but not surprised. "I knew all the time I was a strategic target of many parties, so I had to reckon with such a result," he said.

Hardship ahead on the tortuous road to freedom

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

THE newly elected government of Hungary will have little time to celebrate the return to democracy as it will inherit an economic mess brought on by years of poor central planning, communist corruption and suffocating trade ties to the Soviet Union.

Although the late Kadar years did see small openings towards a market economy, which made Hungary the showcase of Soviet satellites, economic planners began borrowing heavily to import consumer goods from the West in a desperate attempt to keep the population happy and under control.

The leftovers were poorly invested in the kind of rust-built industry always favoured by Stalin.

Now Hungary is saddled with a £13 billion foreign debt, rampant inflation of at least 20 per cent and about 50,000 unemployed. That could surge to almost 400,000 if the decrepit state factories are shut, something which the interim administration hesitated to do.

Communist policies have also produced an average monthly salary of \$110 (£68) and about one-fourth of the population living below the poverty level. All solutions will be painful but the big parties, expected to emerge victorious from yesterday's general election, are committed to capitalism and the free-market system.

Only the pace of change is in dispute. While the centre-right Democratic Forum urges a "cautious privatization" and wants the state to continue stewardship of more than 30 per cent of the economy, the more radical Alliance of Free Democrats says the state should quickly fade away and the tax structure be overhauled to allow Hungary's entrepreneurial skills to flourish.

"We need to make Hungary a nation of shopkeepers," one

economic adviser to the Free Democrats says.

Hungary must also start making things the world wants. A recent survey showed that only 30 per cent of the country's products are of sufficiently high quality to be sold in the West.

How long this transformation will take may be crucial to the nation's economic survival. There are already abundant signs of decay. 10,000 workers at the state-owned Ikarus bus and coach manufacturer were suspended last month and all production facilities closed after the Government ordered a stop to rouble exports. And 70,000 miners are working without pay because the state mining firm has nothing left in the bank.

At the same time, money is flowing in from the West in the form of more than 1,000 new joint ventures and a \$1 billion bail-out from the International Monetary Fund. However, the IMF money could be cut off if the new government reneges on promises to keep the bloated budget deficit under control and to change the double surplus to a deficit.

A new trade agreement signed with Moscow a few days ago should help to ease the imbalance, but reducing the budget deficit will be harder because the public is used to cheap subsidized services and housing. Changing them too quickly could prompt social unrest and threaten the fledgling government's stability.

Although communism will certainly be ended, the Government must move to stop old communist managers from making off with profits by selling out bankrupt state firms. Many dubious holding companies have been formed with communist heads in control. They transferred shares into their name before selling them to foreign buyers.



Dr Jozsef Antall, president of the Democratic Forum and the likely new prime minister, flashing the victory sign at a pre-results news conference in Budapest. Early results pointed to a strong lead for the forum



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Elections fail to overthrow old disorder

Budapest — It was a case of East meeting West on Sunday at Hungary's first democratic voting on a nation-wide scale in more than 40 years. Elections followed Western rules of fair play, but compilation of results was in the best Soviet bloc tradition of maddening incompetence.

Hungarians like to consider themselves closer to modern Western Europe than Eastern Europe, which they derisively call "The Balkans" or "Asia".

But the election and its aftermath appeared to show that the nation had some way to go in its aspirations to Western efficiency.

While international monitors expressed satisfaction with the fairness of the voting, the reporting of results was occasionally reminiscent of vaudeville.

East Germany, which staged the Soviet bloc's first democratic national elections on March 18, met the expectations of Western reporters by providing projections shortly after polls closed. Provisional final results were available five hours after the last vote was cast, with the official vote count tallied by next morning.

But the East Germans had West German computers and know-how. The Hungarians

had modern computers but appeared incapable of using them. Gleaming banks of computer terminals were on display both at election committee headquarters at Parliament and in the election studio of state television, which went live shortly after polls closed for a scheduled 24-hour broadcast, complete with an inspiring musical theme and jazzy graphics.

But computer screens remained blank. Either because of problems or just plain distrust of modern technology, election officials decided in the last minutes to tally ballots cast by more than five million people by hand and use the computers only to cross-check final results.

That, in turn, emasculated the television's computer system, which had been partially depending on feeds from the election committee's network. Red-faced commentators mumbled excuses, reading hand-scratched results of frequently obscure candidates that left viewers baffled.

Half-hearted attempts to draw on the computer were often embarrassing. A panel of experts, attempting to explain inconclusive and misleading computer data, gave up yesterday. (AP)

Hawke poised to retain power with reduced majority

From Christopher Thomas, Sydney

MR ROB HAWKE, the Australian Prime Minister, seemed set last night to retain power with a parliamentary majority of at least two seats after Saturday's election.

The best he can hope for, it seems, is a majority of six in the 148-member House of Representatives, although Labor pollsters privately do not expect it to be that high.

The final outcome in several marginal seats will not be known until the end of this week, leaving Mr Hawke in charge of a caretaker government until victory is certain. The opposition Liberal Party refused to concede defeat, saying there was still an outside chance of a hung parliament.

Postal votes and preference allocations are being included in neck-and-neck contests in six constituencies that are yet to be declared, with results expected tomorrow or on Thursday.

Voting was again postponed at two small polling stations in the marginal Queensland constituency of Kennedy because of flooding. The polls may open today. The Liberals and the governing Labor Party have filled the area with workers in an attempt to capture the support of the remaining few hundred people waiting to cast a vote, in case they can tip the scales.

Mr Andrew Peacock, the

Liberal leader, acknowledged that his chances of taking power were slim, based on assessments of the outstanding seats.

The Australian Electoral Commission has told Mr Hawke that it expects him to retain power with a majority of at least two seats, clearing the way for him to stay on as caretaker Prime Minister. The tally yesterday was: Labor 73, Liberal-National Party coalition 68, Independent 1.

The National Party, whose strength has fallen from 18 seats to 14, is in a crisis as it awaits the expected defeat of its leader, Mr Charles Blunt, in a still undecided contest with an independent.

There is speculation that the party, whose strength lies in rural areas, may merge with the Liberals to create a united conservative movement. National Party MPs have provisionally arranged to elect a new leader on Friday.

Although Mr Peacock is likely to be reconfirmed as Liberal leader, it is clear that he will face an early leadership contest, although no obvious successor has emerged. The Australian Democrats, too, are looking for a leader after the formal resignation of Mrs Janine Haines after her electoral defeat.

The Labor Party is in turmoil after the manning it suffered in Victoria, where the

state government is unpopular.

Mr Hawke's priority as he prepares to form a new government will be to stop Australia slipping into recession. Both he and Mr Paul Keating, the Treasurer — who is expected to become deputy Prime Minister — have raised expectations of an early reduction in interest rates.

Mr Keating said that as soon as the election result was "unambiguous" he would inform the Reserve Bank that the Government believed interest rates should be lowered.

Labor strategists believe they have achieved the near impossible by getting the Government re-elected when the economy is in poor shape. They hope that by the time of the next election, due in three years if the Government runs a full course, the economy will be stronger and Labor will be well placed for a popularity revival, just as the Menzies Government recovered after being jolted in 1961.

The Liberal Party's challenge will be to settle the leadership question. Mr Peacock's poor performance clearly played a pivotal role in the party's failure to capitalize on Labor's vulnerability, and yet there is no obvious successor. The leadership dilemma could continue to dampen its electoral prospects well into the 1990s.

Swiss hunt £12m raiders

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

THE 40 staff of the foreign exchange department at the main Geneva office of the Union Bank of Switzerland were interrogated by police yesterday after foreign currency worth £12.5 million was stolen on Sunday.

According to Mr Henri Munz, the bank's manager, the four armed men who entered the bank through a staff entrance after tying up and gagging two unarmed security men, went straight to the foreign exchange depart-

ment. They disconnected the alarm system and obtained the keys and codes, enabling them to open 12 safes.

They took banknotes, mostly in Swiss and French francs, Deutschmarks and sterling, leaving untouched stacks of Italian lire and African currencies. Mr Munz denied that the bank's security system was obsolete. He said the possibility of an inside job "could not be excluded".

On Friday the bank had received "a large sum" in

banknotes from a foreign central bank. The robbery was discovered about two hours after the raiders struck when a bank computer programmer arrived to start work. He found staff members gagged and bound.

The leader of the gang was described as impeccably dressed and "wearing an expensive suit with a tie".

Police believe the robbers were across the frontier and well into France long before the alarm was given.

helped by other Zum supporters, had set the vehicle on fire.

Zum (PF) officials had retaliated by shooting Mr Kombyai, the President claimed.

The other account came yesterday from Mr Jerry Nyambuya, aged 32, Zum's director of elections. With his face swollen, his upper lip split and his right eye severely bloodshot, he said that Mr Muzenda's government-supported bodyguards had ambushed Mr Kombyai and shot him, his driver and four other Zum supporters.

"There is no way his (Muzenda's) bodyguards would have acted without instructions," Mr Nyambuya alleged. He also claimed that he had been abducted by the same bodyguards, beaten up, shot at on a lonely spot outside the city, and left for dead.

Mr Edgar Tekere, the chairman of Zum, which is mounting the substantive opposition to Zum (PF), said at the same press conference that the in-

cident was devised by the ruling party to "finish off" Mr Kombyai.

Officials of two independent election monitoring groups which are drawing up reports on the Gweru incident, but who asked not to be identified, said their investigations appeared to confirm Mr Nyambuya's version and the shooting of six Zum supporters.

One of them pointed out,

however, that "it is extremely difficult to know what the truth is."

"You can hardly find anyone in Gweru you could call an impartial observer."

What can be said with some certainty of the situation in the fear-haunted township of Gweru is that Mr Kombyai has taken full control of the city with a well-organized army of youths equipped with walkie-talkies, so preventing the powerful Zum (PF) Vice-President from conducting anything but a peripheral campaign in the city.

Impressions of Van Gogh's tragic life

Reflections on glory: Donald Bouwens, a Dutch actor who bears a striking resemblance to Vincent van Gogh, contemplating a self-portrait by the painter before the opening of an exhibition in Amsterdam this week to mark the artist's death by suicide, at the age of 37, 100 years ago

Mugabe deputy's guards 'wounded rival candidate'

From Jan Raath, Harare

BODYGUARDS of Mr Simon Muzenda, Zimbabwe's Vice-President, were yesterday accused of shooting and wounding an opposition candidate who is considered almost certain to win a seat from President Mugabe's ruling Zum (PF) Party in tomorrow's election.

Mr Patrick Kombyai, the Zimbabwe Unity Movement (Zum) candidate in the city of Gweru, is recovering after two hours of surgery on Saturday in which at least two bullets were removed from his stomach and another from his leg.

The shooting was the latest incident in the rarely publicized violence of the election campaign.

Two conflicting accounts of the shooting have emerged. The first is from Mr Mugabe, who told cheering partisan crowds around Harare on Sunday that the incident had been provoked by Mr Kombyai who, he alleged, had shot at the tyres of a lorry belonging to Mr Muzenda and then,

helped by other Zum supporters, had set the vehicle on fire.

Zum (PF) officials had retaliated by shooting Mr Kombyai, the President claimed.

The other account came yesterday from Mr Jerry Nyambuya, aged 32, Zum's director of elections. With his face swollen, his upper lip split and his right eye severely bloodshot, he said that Mr Muzenda's government-supported bodyguards had ambushed Mr Kombyai and shot him, his driver and four other Zum supporters.

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Gondoliers beat Venice drought

From Richard Bassett, Rome

THE VENETIAN authorities expressed renewed concern yesterday at the falling water level in Venice's canals. At the same time, the reappearance of algae in the lagoons has shocked the city's environmental officers.

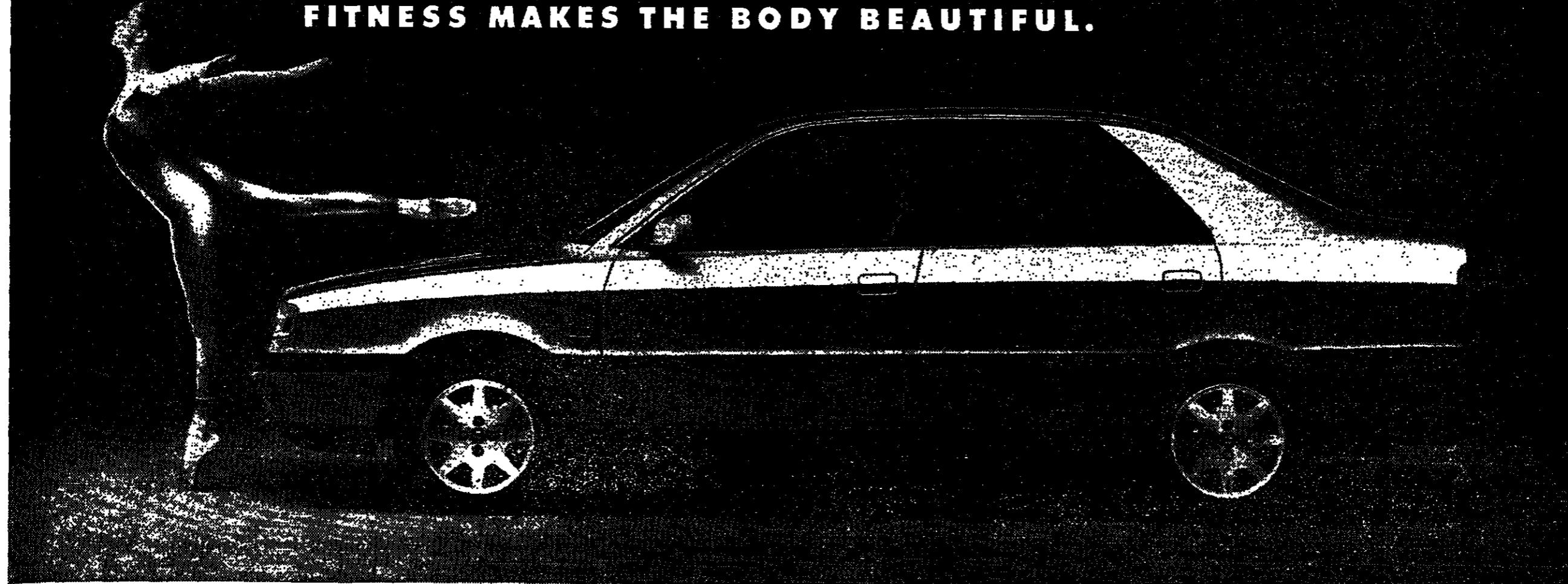
Several of the smaller canals in the poorer part of the city behind the Church of San Trovaso near the Accademia are impassable as the result of the drought during one of the mildest Italian winters on record.

Along the larger canals, the decreasing water level has meant a comeback for gondolas, rather than bigger boats.

Because the depth of the canals depends on the great rivers of the Venetian plain, Gweru has taken full control of the city with a well-organized army of youths equipped with walkie-talkies, so preventing the powerful Zum (PF) Vice-President from conducting anything but a peripheral campaign in the city.

The lack of rain and snow in the Venetian and eastern Alps has dried up the Tatiamento, Piave and Isonzo Rivers.

Usually the rivers are by now a pale blue, but even last



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Israeli desert city fosters pioneer spirit of Soviet Jews

From Richard Owen
Beersheba

AS YITZHAK RAGER, the ebullient Mayor of Beersheba, comes striding out of his office, an aide rushes up with a sheaf of airmail letters on cheap Soviet stationery.

"Look," says Mr Rager, seizing the bundle and rifling through it. "I get 2,000 of these a month, all from Soviet Jews considering living here in the Negev Desert. You know why? Because I write to them in Russian and I say to them: If you want to help build the Jewish state, don't go to the West Bank, don't even go to Tel Aviv or Haifa — come to Beersheba and be a pioneer."

The decision by Malev, the Hungarian airline, to suspend flights for Soviet Jews via Budapest because of Arab threats, has again fuelled controversy over the settling of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

But Israeli officials hope such

hitches will prove temporary. The flow of Soviet immigrants shows little sign of abating and estimates suggest that hundreds of thousands of Russian *olim* (immigrants) will arrive over the next two to three years. So far, most are going not to the West Bank, but to towns in Israel proper.

For Israeli planners the problem is not so much the political fallout of West Bank settlements but the profound impact Russian immigrants seem bound to have — and to some extent are having already — on Israeli society and politics.

At the Jewish settlement of Efrat, near Bethlehem on the West Bank, Mr Bob Lang, the settlement's US-born administrator, says that although the great wave of Soviet immigration is "a dream come true", there is a limit to what a settlement like Efrat can do.

It is, in effect, a middle-class dormitory suburb for Jerusalem and the average family home there

costs £94,000. No Russian immigrant, assuming he can find a job in the first place, can hope to obtain a mortgage of more than £31,000 at the most.

The only settlements willing to take in Russians at low cost are either ideological or ultra-religious, and most Soviet Jews are barely aware of their Jewishness. As a result, many of the thousands who have arrived in recent months are confused and dis-appointed.

They come, President Herzog has noted, as refugees from Russian anti-Semitism, and are greeted with dances and flowers at Tel Aviv airport. But then they find there is no work for them and no housing. Many end up staying with friends and relatives in the crowded coastal strip on either side of Tel Aviv, hoping for the best.

For Mr Rager, as for other go-ahead mayors in "development towns" in Israel proper, the an-

swer is simple: attract the Soviet immigrants, nearly half of whom have high professional qualifications, to the outer fringes of the Jewish state and inspire them with enthusiasm for the Zionist cause.

More prosaically, Mr Rager, a larger-than-life businessman who was persuaded by demoralized Beersheba citizens to stand for office and revive the town, believes he can provide the two key ingredients missing elsewhere: housing and work.

For the privilege of building the future, new immigrants have to put up with present-day realities in spartan, frontier town conditions, and many Russians readily admit they have already had quite enough deprivation under communism.

"I speak to hundreds of Soviet tourists every year, and I tell them the truth," Mr Rager said, as we toured one of the new housing complexes rising from the desert scrubland, complete with an up-

to-the-minute shopping centre and four-screen cinema.

Workers and engineers, some of them recent arrivals from Leningrad and Kiev, reached out to shake his hand as he passed. "I tell them about the righteous man who goes to Heaven but cannot resist visiting Hell. In Hell he enjoys wine, women and song, and so asks for a transfer. When he gets there he is tormented by demons and complains that he was cheated. Ah, says the Devil, then you are a tourist, now you are an immigrant."

For Israel, a great deal hangs on whether the new immigrants make a go of it in towns like Beersheba, or become disillusioned and leave as soon as the United States rescinds the immigration restrictions which have forced many Soviet Jews to divert to Israel.

Commentators speak joyfully of a "miracle" equivalent to the Israeli exodus from Egypt. But the corollary is that, if Israel fails

to meet the challenge, the blow to its self-image will be immense.

Planners are fully aware that, whereas the earlier development towns were settled by Moroccans, East Europeans and others only too happy to be pioneers, today's Soviet immigrants are better educated, more sophisticated, less interested in Zionism, and much less willing to be told where to live.

Of Beersheba's 115,000 population, some 20 per cent are already of Soviet origin. None the less, despite Mr Rager's efforts, most of the new Soviet *olim* still prefer to join friends and relatives in the coastal cities rather than take up the challenge of the open spaces.

Mr Rager outlines a vision of a "boom town" in the desert, based on tourism, Bedouin folklore and the building industry. He has cajoled big investors from Toronto to Arizona into putting up cash. But the outcome is still in the balance.

I asked Boris Sverdlov, a doc-

Two die as police fire on township protesters

Johannesburg (Reuters) — South African police opened fire on black anti-apartheid protesters in two black townships near Johannesburg yesterday, killing at least two people and injuring scores of others, according to hospital sources.

Police used shotguns and tear gas to disperse several thousand black protesters in Sebokeng and Sharpeville, witnesses said. But no injuries were reported in the Sharpeville clashes.

The townships are south of Johannesburg and about six miles apart.

A hospital employee at Sebokeng said the two dead were a boy and a girl, aged about 14.

Witnesses said up to 100 people may have been wounded by the police fire there.

"You cannot tell exactly how many were wounded; there were so many," one nurse at the hospital said.

A police spokesman said he was still waiting for reports from the scene, but confirmed there had been widespread disturbances.

The South African Press Association quoted witnesses saying at least four people had been killed by police.

Other reporters saw about 30 people, including young children, leave the Sebokeng hospital after being treated for shotgun wounds.

Many had been shot in the back, the journalists said.

The injured said they had been taking part in a march from the black township to the white city of Vereeniging to protest against high rents, housing conditions and racially-segregated local government facilities.

The police tried first to use tear gas to stop the march, which had not been given official permission under the three-year-old state of emergency. They then opened fire.

Setback for Spanish Socialists

From Harry Debelius
Madrid

FOR the first time in its eight years in power, the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party found itself without an absolute majority in Parliament yesterday.

A court-ordered re-run of last month's general elections in the Spanish enclave of Melilla on the North African coast gave the colony's only seat in the Congress of Deputies to the opposition, the conservative Popular Party, eroding the Socialists' one-seat majority.

The loss of the Melilla seat, which had gone to the Socialists in the annulled ballot on October 29, left the party with 175 seats, exactly half the total in the country's powerful lower house.

However the setback is only symbolic. The Socialists retain a real voting majority because four of the seats in the Congress won by Herri Batasuna (People's Unity) — the group supporting the Basque separatist organization, Eta — have not been occupied.

Whether the four radical Basque deputies will be able to take their places depends on a decision to be made by the Constitutional Court about whether they may add the phrase "by legal imperative" to their obligatory oath or promise to uphold the Constitution.

Even if the tribunal rules in their favour, they may continue their long-standing boycott of the Spanish parliament.

The crowd pelted police with bricks and stones, according to witnesses.

After the clash, some people in the crowd reportedly tried to continue the march and stoned buses.

Municipal offices in the centre of the township were set on fire and cars overturned.

Camera crew members of the Visnews international television agency said they saw men in civilian clothes driving through the township streets in unmarked cars firing at random with pistols.

The failed march in Sebokeng was planned as part of a march on the offices of the ruling white National Party in Vereeniging — the home constituency of President de Klerk — from nine satellite black townships.

The demonstration was forbidden by a magistrate and the town council last week.

A local police spokesman said that earlier in the day the Sebokeng police station had been stoned.

Large crowds also gathered in the other townships in the area, a major industrial centre where work was disrupted in many factories by the protest.

The demonstration was organized by groups allied to the African National Congress.

Leaders of the ANC are due to meet Mr de Klerk on April 11 for preliminary talks on ways to negotiate power-sharing between blacks and whites.

Also, 15 blacks were killed in weekend factional fighting, according to police and press reports.

Police said suspected ANC guerrillas fired two rocket-propelled grenades on Sunday night at town council offices in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg.

The two Soviet-made RPG-7 grenades caused some damage, but police said later that there were no injuries in the attacks.

Law of the jungle on a city's doorstep



African drama: A rare Tawny Eagle carries a straggling frog to its tree-top nest in the Nairobi National Park, a few miles from the centre of the Kenyan capital. Most of the continent's big game, except elephants, can be seen roaming free in the park, against a backdrop of city skyscrapers on the horizon

Tokyo bestseller fuels unease in Washington

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

A PUNCHY Japanese satire against America, which has become a bestseller in Japan and enraged those who have read pirated translations in Washington, is about to anger a wider audience through an authorized English version that will give foreigners a rare taste of a new, more assertive Japan.

Mr Shintaro Ishihara, the nationalistic novelist-turned-politician, who feels Japan should snap out of its "post-war stepchild mentality" and tell America who really is top today, said that Simon and Schuster had agreed to publish an English edition of his book, *The Japan That Can Say No*.

The English version, due out in May, seems certain to make Japan-US relations stickier than they already are that Mr Akio Morita, the chairman of Sony, new owner of Hollywood's Columbia Pictures and the book's now embittered co-author, has demanded that his contribu-

tions be edited out and his name be kept off the dust-jacket.

Senior government politicians half-way through tricky trade talks with the United States and suddenly finding themselves begging Washington for help in reviving the yen, are also chewing their nails about the likely fallout, especially since they feel Washington is looking for a bogeyman to replace Moscovia.

Mr Morita's shyness will leave the \$300,000 (£187,500) in royalties for Mr Ishihara, who has been complaining that the pirated version robbed him of his royalties.

Mr Ishihara is taken seriously in Washington, partly because he made a stab at being Prime Minister last autumn, partly because he wants another stab, and largely because he is the first member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats to say publicly what many Japanese

privately mutter over their beer and peanuts.

His language is designed to taunt, and it succeeds in doing so effectively.

US congressmen began howling — and questioning the loyalty of their most powerful ally — when they read Mr Ishihara's provocative statement that, since America's nuclear missiles could not fire straight without Japanese semi-conductors, Japan could drastically change the balance of power by selling advanced microchips to Moscow.

Mr Ishihara also says America resents Japan because Americans are racist. In Japan much foreign criticism is called "Japan-bashing".

But Mr Morita was caught out by Washington's furious reaction to the book, saying it was for Japanese eyes only.

Opinions will not travel well are traded openly in Japanese magazines and chat shows in the belief that Japan remains an island.

Arab League defends Iraq in Bazoft row

From Michael Theodorou, Nicosia

THE Arab League yesterday rallied around Iraq in its confrontation with Britain over the execution of the Observer journalist, Farzad Bazoft, but said the affair should not damage relations between Arab and European countries.

General Chedli Klibi, the League secretary, said Iraq had been fully justified in executing Bazoft and had merely exercised its right to apply the law of the land as any other state would do.

"Those who took part in the political and media campaign against Iraq ... forgot that Iraq still feels, and justly, that it is in a state of war with Iran and that it has the right to defend its security and national interests," General Klibi said in Tunis, where the League met.

Iraq called for the meeting last week to gather Arab support against British and European criticism of its decision to execute Mr Bazoft in defiance of international opinion.

Last Thursday the Arab League issued a statement condemning British news coverage of Iraq over the affair. Some Arab diplomats hoped this would satisfy Iraq and privately opposed the special League meeting, preferring that the affair be quietly forgotten.

General Klibi said: "The Arab states are keen to affirm their solidarity with Iraq, either against the tendentious campaign or in response to any possible aggression against its territory or installations."

After discovering that the Happy Land Social Club had been served with an eviction notice in December, Mr David Dinkins, the Mayor of New York, ordered a crackdown on illegal dance clubs. Police sent 200 inspectors to check that clubs ordered to close had actually shut down.

Europe. "The Arab states are keen to preserve Arab-European relations from any deterioration which Israel may be planning for them," he said.

In his carefully worded opening speech, General Klibi made no mention of Iraq's accusation that Mr Bazoft had been spying for Britain, but repeated allegations that the Iranian-born journalist had ties with Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service. The affair, he implied, was a trap set by Israel and Iran to damage Iraq's relations with European countries.

"For that reason we have taken the initiative of informing the presidency of the European Community that the Arab states are worried about attempts to drag the Community into an affair which may have undesirable consequences," he said.

On Friday, France, which was Iraq's biggest arms supplier after the Soviet Union during the Gulf War, called off the visit to Bagdad by an army chief of staff, apparently in protest at the Bazoft execution.

• BEIRUT: Lebanon's rival Christians yesterday strengthened fortifications and brought up fresh fighters and ammunition (Reuter reports).

Security sources said General Michel Aoun and the Lebanese Forces were apparently preparing for battle in the fall following a day of tank and artillery clashes in Beirut and the north-east Keserwan mountains.

Sunday's fighting, in which six people were killed and 12 wounded, was the worst violation of a fragile truce that halted four weeks of tank, artillery and rocket battles on March 2.

Cuban weeps after club inferno



Mr Gonzalez: Told police 'the devil' made him do it

From James Bone, New York

THE CUBAN immigrant accused of being the worst mass murderer in US history showed remorse after his arrest for starting a fire which killed 87 people in a Bronx nightclub, and broke down while being questioned by police.

Mr Julio Gonzalez, aged 36, apologized for setting fire to the Happy Land Club in the East Tremont area early on Sunday, and gave extensive videotaped statements to detectives. "The devil made me do it," he said.

Police said he had been ejected from the club before the fire after annoying an ex-girlfriend who worked as a cloakroom attendant there. Threatening, "I'll be back," he picked up a plastic jug at the

club and filled it with one dollar's worth of petrol at a nearby garage.

He allegedly went back to the crammed club, threw the petrol on the floor and set light to it, the police said. His former girlfriend was one of five people who survived the fire.

After discovering that the Happy Land Social Club had been served with an eviction notice in December, Mr David Dinkins, the Mayor of New York, ordered a crackdown on illegal dance clubs.

Police sent 200 inspectors to check that clubs ordered to close had actually shut down.

Seeds of conflict are water-borne in parched Middle East

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

WATER, or rather the shortage of it, is joining the Palestinian problem as a source of tension and potential conflict in the Middle East.

As a succession of water-related crises have shown, the gravity of the problem arises largely because the region's great rivers — the Euphrates, Tigris and Nile — rise in non-Arab countries, while those rivers on which Israel relies, the Jordan and Yarmouk, have their sources in Arab countries.

Western experts say that little has been done since. Two-thirds of the precious water allocated to towns and cities is lost through inefficient use, such as leaking pipes, while Nile farmers use twice as much water as they

need because of poor irrigation methods.

Dr Mohammed Abu Mansour, director of the symposium, said: "One of the main reasons for the seriousness of the Nile water shortage is the terrifying increase in popula-

tion, anticipated to reach 70 million by the year 2000 (compared with 54 million now), coupled with the limited quota of Nile water allotted to Egypt."

TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

William Whitelaw retires this week from the presidency of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, and so relinquishes his last formal Tory office, although he remains the party's deputy leader. With the leader herself so besieged, it is an appropriate moment to recall Whitelaw's own prediction of how the mighty will fall. Interviewed two years ago, when the Thatcher bandwagon was still most of its wheels on, Whitelaw opined that where she stood in history would "depend entirely on how it all finishes"; he did, however, venture that she would tower over Macmillan to become a peacetime Churchill.



Whitelaw: mess mate

"But", said Willie, "there's no doubt her leadership is bound to end in a muddle, because she's been so dominant for so long. The Tory party is good at getting itself into a mess, and it will get itself into another one sooner or later — it knows how to do that." She will never, I suspect, achieve the status of her predecessor Lord John Russell; it was he who, in 1851, repealed the most despised tax of the day — the one on windows.

Visitors to Tokyo with an hour to spare have discovered an unexpected cultural bonus. The resting place of Van Gogh's "Sunflowers", sold for a then world record £24.7 million at Sotheby's in 1987, is now open to the public on the 42nd floor of the painting's owners, the Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance Company. For 500 yen (around £2) a head, the public can admire the work in the majestic surroundings of the company museum, along with such other artistic plums as Cézanne's "Pommes et Serviettes" and Gauguin's "L'Allez des Alyscamps, Arles". Incidentally, the word is that Japanese corporate collectors are beginning to fight shy of paintings because of the possibility of fakes. The companies' new target is sculpture, particularly Rodin.

Ah, how distant now seem the Sixties. A misslot to alumni of the London School of Economics, that one-time cauldron of revolutionary thought, invites them to join the Executive World Book Club for cut-price volumes by John Harvey-Jones, Mark McCormick, Lee Iacocca and other high priests of capitalism. Oh, and they get a free Filofax if they join right away.

Coincidence, of course, that the new United States ambassador to Zimbabwe arrived just as the country was celebrating the tenth anniversary of its independence, an event I shall forever associate with Angela Rippon's absurdly over-enunciated reading of the news about the Rev Ndadambane Sithole and his guerrillas. It is less of a coincidence that, as part of the celebrations, many street names in Harare (*née* Salisbury) have been changed from those of white colonial heroes to



Rhodes to oblivion

leading lights of the freedom war. Citizens of all colours are vastly amused that James Rhodes, a black man, was due to take up residence at the US embassy in Rhodes Avenue, named after the only begetter of white Rhodesia. Fortunately for all sorts of sensibilities, Rhodes Avenue has just become Josiah Tongogara Avenue, after the general commanding, Robert Mugabe's Zanu forces, who died in a car crash shortly before the war was won.

Dustmen in Bonn have been given the additional duty of reporting motorists who park their cars in the way of dustcarts, a task which will doubtless do their Christmas boxes no good at all. The edict coincides with the German capital's publication of its annual league table of diplomatic parking tickets. Two countries with only three official cars each came top and bottom: Cape Verde collected no tickets at all, while Angola notched up 62. The Poles, despite having 80 vehicles, stayed commendably within the law and emerged second best. Britain and the United States tied for third place with 0.17 offences per car. But I fear that the Vatican, which last year boasted an entirely clean record, fell to fourth place when its sole diplomatic car picked up one parking ticket. Naughty Nuncio Nabbed, as the papers with small pages might say.

THE farrago so far. An Englishman who failed to have his head examined has arrived in France with a vanload of his old furniture. He has been stopped at the Calais port by two policemen who wish to see the import licence he has not got. Because he has not got it, they wish to see the old furniture. Last Friday, we left them opening the doors. Ten seconds have passed; you may now read on. (All conversation has been roughly translated from the even rougher original.)

"Lo, the old furniture!" I said. They craned towards the loosely piled chairs, tables, sofas, rugs, pictures and boxes of odds and ends. Given the pitifulness of all such deracinated stuff, I could not see how their hearts could fail to melt. Homelessness is ever poignant, even in a kettle. "This is not for sale?"

Again there is a significant Thatcher factor in the Tories' slump in the polls. To a number of Tories, therefore, the intriguing element in Labour's weekend lead of up to 28% was the suggestion that, with Michael Heseltine as leader, the gap would close to 10%.

Mr Heseltine is all the vogue. But in a situation rich with ironies, there is nothing more likely to ensure there is no change of leader. Although a fighter not likely to lay down the leadership at the first whistle of a shotgun past the ears, Mrs Thatcher would contemplate retirement if she became convinced that she was the one true impediment to re-election of a Tory government. If the question of the succession were an open contest she might just bring herself to consider going. But with Mr Heseltine appearing unstoppable, there is nothing, senior colleagues say, further from her mind. She would not willingly hand over to someone who, in her view, would revive all that she has fought against — corporatism, interventionism, over-cautious Europeanism.

Forget the calls for Mr Heseltine to become party chairman. She will not have him, and he would not want to give up the freedom to take his Thatcherism *à la carte*. Do not expect him

either to sign a new oath of loyalty to Mrs Thatcher and all her works. For a man who walked out of her Cabinet in disagreement with her methods, it would make a living lie of his past three years of endeavour. Hence yesterday's careful response to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

What Mr Heseltine prays for is that others will not Mrs Thatcher under irresistible pressure to go. He does so for two reasons. First is the traditional fear that he who wields the dagger rarely inherits the crown. The second is that were he to challenge and succeed, he could inherit a party so bitterly divided that it would be unable to lead this side of a general election.

It is a notion sedulously spread by party managers anxious to keep down the hysteria and avert a leadership contest this autumn. But how Thatcherite is the party today?

New and intriguing light is cast by Philip Norton, Professor of Government at the University of Hull, in the latest *Par-*

liamentary Affairs. After assiduous study of division lists and public statements, he offers a detailed breakdown of Tory MPs which could influence the sums on a leadership challenge.

There are three sub-groupings, he says, that can be identified under the Thatcherite group label. Thirty are core Thatcherites, free-market and pro-hanging:

Michael Brown, Christopher Chope, Robert Dunn, Timothy Eggar, Michael Fallon, Anthony Favel, Michael Forsyth, Eric Forth, Terence Gorman, Arcade Hamilton, Neil Hamilton, Sir Peter Horden, Gerald Howarth, Timothy Janman, Robert Jones, Ivan Lawrence, Edward Leigh, Francis Maude, John Moore, Michael Portillo, John Redwood, Nicholas Ridley, Peter Rost, Angela Rumbold, Richard Shepherd, Alan Stewart, Norman Tebbit, Margaret Thatcher, John Townend and Ian Twinn.

Professor Norton lists 26 right-wingers who emphasize law and order issues: David Atkinson, Vivian Bedford, Sir Rhodes Boyson, John

Carlisle, Alan Clark, Edwin Currie, Terence Dicks, Sir John Farr, George Gardner, Peter Griffiths, Michael Grylls, Ralph Howell, Andrew Mackay, David Maclean, Gerry Neale, James Pawsey, Barry Porter, Sir William Shelton, Sir Trevor Skeet, Ivor Stannett, Sir John Stokes, Teddy Taylor, William Walker, John Ward, Kenneth Warren and Ray Whibley.

And there are 16 of free-market views but anti-hanging: Nicholas Bennett, John Biffen, Sir Richard Body, Nicholas Budgen, Sir William Clark, David Heathcoat-Amory, Alan Howarth, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Norman Lamont, Nigel Lawton, Peter Lilley, Peter Lloyd, Paul Marland, Roger Mowat, Tim Renton and Ian Gow.

In categorizing the rest of the party, Professor Norton identifies 17 "populists":

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, David Gilroy, Bryan, Sir Nicholas Bonser, Winston Churchill, Derek Conway, Denis Donnelly, Sir Martin Fox, Richard Holt, Dame Elsie Kelllett-Brown, Dame Jill Knight, Anthony Clarke, Nigel Forman, Roger Freeman, Tristan Garel-Jones, Patrick Ground, Keith Hampson, Christopher Hawkins, Sir Barnes Hayhoe, Michael Heseltine, Terence Higgins, Douglas Hogg, David Hunt, Douglas Hurd, John Lee, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Michael Mates, Robert McCrindle, Norman McCampbell, Colin Moynihan, Richard Needham, Stephen Norton, John Patten, Sir David Price, Timothy Rathbone, Peter Thurnham, William Waldegrave, Dennis Walters and Timothy Yeo.

Although some might quarrel with their categorization, we are left with 72 firm Thatcherites (19 per cent of the parliamentary party) and 67 "wets" and "damps" (18 per cent). Of the remaining 217, says Professor Norton, nearly 200 are party loyalists, on whom the whips can normally rely, and 20-30 are personally loyal to Mrs Thatcher.

Professor Norton's argument is that the Thatcherites are in a minority and do not dominate the party infrastructure. Because Tory leaders have absolute control over policy as well as patronage, whatever the direction the new leader wishes the Conservative Party to take, there is little to prevent him or her achieving that goal... Mrs Thatcher has not crafted a party that is inherently Thatcherite in terms of attitude and composition. Loyalty will flow to the new leader as leader, regardless of which particular section of the party he or she is drawn from."

Robin Oakley on a new study showing Thatcherites in a minority

How the Tories divide

Don't put your faith in people power



Despite democracy's resurgence in Eastern Europe and elsewhere,

John Grigg cautions against writing off the men with the guns

American invasion to give effect to the popular will, and even then it was difficult. In Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega has so far made no attempt to use the army to frustrate the election result, either because he fears that the Americans might act against him, as they did against Noriega, or — perhaps more likely — because he sees the democratic game as worth playing now, in his own long-term interest.

If communism has now been displaced throughout Eastern Europe, and if the Russians are moving out, it is not because the power of the people was irresistible, but because Mr Gorbachov took a deliberate decision, for his own reasons, to allow it. The Red Army, instead of being ordered to crush the popular movements, as it had done before, was told to stand aside and let them prevail. In other words, it was Soviet power, negatively exercised, that determined the course of events.

In Poland, communism and the Soviet occupation were always manifestly hated, and the rise of Solidarity provided the most dramatic proof of that strength of feeling. Yet it was not enough to overthrow the regime or to get rid of the Russians. Indeed, at one point the Pope had to intercede with Lech Wałęsa, at General Jaruzelski's request, to persuade him to restrain his movement and so avoid the calamity of a Soviet crackdown.

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The local armies of Warsaw Pact countries in Eastern Europe are nationalist rather than communist, and so sympathized with the civilian demonstrators. In Romania, where there was a formidable corps of armed security police loyal to the dictator, the revolution succeeded only because the regular army sided with the people.

In Panama, where the army stayed loyal to the dictator, the will of the people as expressed in a general election was powerless to remove him. It took an

The same thing could happen if the Red Army were willing to be used to save the Soviet Union and its pre-1945 empire from

disintegration and anarchy. So far, that army has been restrained, both at home and abroad, and it seems to have accepted its negative role. Only in Tbilisi and Baku has it been used to assert Moscow's authority, and in each case it was swiftly effective.

But the time may come when Gorbachov or some other civilian leader decides to use his army on a much larger scale, or the army might take the law into its own hands under the leadership of a soldier of political talent and ambition: a Russian Kemal Ataturk.

Soviet military failure in Afghanistan should not mislead us. Even a formidable and well-equipped modern army is likely to fail when operating in alien territory and daunting terrain (mountainous or thickly forested, or both) against a motivated enemy with strong material support from a rival power.

Like the Russians in Afghanistan, the Americans faced such a challenge in Vietnam. But these exceptions only prove the rule, that a modern army can normally impose its will, or at the very least hold its own.

Except in such special conditions, guerrillas cannot win against a modern army with all its weaponry and gadgetry,

including the technology of surveillance. That is one reason why ANC guerrillas have made so little impact in South Africa, where they have been defeated Hitler, and it is not by Gandhi's methods, which command total respect from the whole world and has achieved far more than violent movements.

The implication was that Gandhi had won independence for his country by his non-violent methods, whereas they almost certainly delayed it by a quarter of a century. When the British eventually left India after the Second World War, it was not because Indian soul-force drove them out, but because the world's two emerging superpowers were opposed to British imperialism. The Raj had become physically untenable.

Gandhi's methods could never have defeated Hitler, and it is not by Gandhi's methods, which command total respect from the whole world and has achieved far more than violent movements.

It is an original?"

"It is a cartoon," I said. Did you know that there are two words for cartoon in French?

Carton means a Leonardo, *Dessin* means a Bill Tidy. It's amazing the things you can find out from a gendarmerie, especially after a long hysterical explanation to the effect that Bill Tidy is alive and well in Solihull, thinks that the Quattrocento is a small Fiat, and knocks out a dozen of these a day.

But it was all right. They stuck their teeth, they sniffed, but they finally conceded that none of this stuff was going to destabilize the French fine art market. They were about to hop

where the armed struggle is important only psychologically as a bargaining counter. There are five million whites in South Africa, rather than a mere few hundred thousand as in Zimbabwe. There is a point beyond which they cannot be coerced.

In Ulster, the Protestants are a still larger minority as a proportion of the total population of Ireland, and they are similarly intransigent. Even if the IRA could sap Brian's will to resist its terrorism, it could never hope to win against the Ulster Protestants.

The point is that we should not forget that physical strength is ultimately decisive in human affairs, whatever the balance of moral worth.

Because of her opposition to economic sanctions and armed struggle in South Africa, Mrs Thatcher lapsed into language more suited to the women of Greenwich Common when talking to *The Sunday Times* last month: "Look at Gandhi," she said. "It is the non-violent that commands total respect from the whole world and has achieved far more than violent movements."

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John Major has reintroduced the word "generosity" into the arts funding debate.

We are by instinct a generous nation to causes that appeal to us," he said last week. For too long arts organizations have been reluctant to include this word in their fund-raising, concentrating instead on marketing jargon and catch-phrases.

Under the Gift Aid scheme announced in the Budget, one-off donations, individual or corporate, of between £500 and £5 million will qualify for tax relief at basic rate (payable to the charity) and for relief at any due higher rate (payable to the donor). This announcement is the third signal of a change of attitude to arts funding since Peter Palumbo became chairman of the Arts Council in April 1990.

First came the announcement of an improved grant; then Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, gave the Council a more strategic role and devolved many of its funding responsibilities to regional arts associations. Mr Palumbo's credibility must be high in Whitehall if he and Mr Luce have managed to convince the Treasury that new tax incentives are essential to help reverse the effects of the severe underfunding of the arts during the Rees-Mogg years at the Arts Council.

Since the mid-1980s, arts companies have been outstandingly successful at increasing their self-generated income and reducing dependence on public-sector finance. It has, however, proved to be unrealistic to expect box-office prices and income, as well as private-sector sponsorship and donations, to rise at rates of growth far in excess of inflation while grants have been kept down to increases of around 2 per cent a year. Inevitably, ceilings have been reached in the last year, higher seat prices have threatened accessibility and deficits have begun to appear.

Mr Luce's acknowledgement of the problem and his success in securing more funds from the Treasury last October has since been further undermined. As we gleaned from the Budget, estimates of inflation are sharply up: the 1990 fourth-quarter figure is now likely to be 7.25 per cent compared to 5.5 per cent when the 1990-91 grants were announced. Not only will higher inflation affect costs in the arts; higher interest rates are likely to depress consumer expenditure on theatre-going and other arts events.

Will Gift Aid come to the rescue? Will the arts, more than lifeboats, famine relief and Aids, ever appeal to that "instinctive generosity" that Mr Major describes? While giving his measures a genuine welcome, I have to warn that if they are to succeed, they must not be perceived as a means of replacing central government funding for the arts.

If, on the other hand, central funding is restored to vitality, increased individual giving may help us all to catch up with the

deficiencies of the past and match our much better subsidized European colleagues in 1992. Individual support must not be seen as a hope for survival but as a spur for growth.

I hope Mr Luce is not seduced by mouthwatering American statistics which show that arts in the US received \$6.82 billion from the private sector in 1988, of which 83 per cent came from individuals. What the figures do not show is that growth to this level has been steady and slow since the introduction of US federal income tax in the 1920s.

Tax incentives for the donor

have long been in place, but the main reason for giving is that doing so is part of every American's local and national culture.

Americans are used to being cultivated and solicited for donations; they expect it and enjoy the "glow factor". A Charities Aid Foundation survey

shows that the average Briton gives to all charities a total of no more than £2 a month.

We shall do our best to change that, but we are aware that theatres and museums are not the highest priority for the giving classes, and we shall have to develop our methods and asking techniques to raise ourselves higher on the totem pole of priorities. This will take time, investment, training and resources. Above all, it will need the Government and the Arts Council to take a long view and to display good faith in the capacity for long-term gains by adequate investment now.

Terry Hands, the outgoing artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, recently redefined the word "subsidy" to support his case for help with the RSC's current deficit problems. To the audience it represents a reduction in the price of seats or admission; to the Government it is investment — the arts bring in more than they cost; to the arts companies it is a loan and is paid back in VAT, national insurance contributions, income tax and the value of the arts to the community.

Subsidy as the core of our work must be preserved. We must welcome Mr Major's new Gift Aid and the simplification of covenants that now allows, but to give his measures the best chance of success, we must make sure the fruits they bring are new money and not merely replace old money.

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THE BALTIC AND THE WEST

The West has watched with admiration and alarm the sang froid of the people and Government of Lithuania in the face of President Gorbachov's unsable attempts to intimidate them. Yet the European Community and the United States have formulated no strategy for deterring what appears to be a crudely signalled Soviet *putsch* in Vilnius. The Kremlin might be forgiven for interpreting hesitation as the result of the same self-interest which led democracies to appear undemocratic opponents half a century ago.

It is nevertheless difficult to suggest concrete measures which a medium-sized power like Britain might take, without prejudicing its wider interests, to deter Soviet military intervention on the Baltic seaboard. Military action, even of a demonstrative kind, must be ruled out as hopelessly counter-productive.

Indeed, the official news agency, Tass, is already claiming that Nato warships have arrived in the Baltic. The Soviet propaganda offensive which would certainly accompany the overthrow of President Landsbergis would obviously make the most of Western subversion, in order to render more plausible Lithuania's alleged threat to Soviet security.

Economic sanctions would be equally counter-productive. The objections are familiar: inefficiency of enforcement, the improbability of a united front, the imperviousness of national politics to external economic aggression. West Germany, which has so much at stake in detente with the Soviet Union, would be unlikely to agree even to consider sanctions, despite ties with the Baltic states going back to the Teutonic Knights.

The Government cannot credibly threaten Moscow with anything more daunting than the traditional contempt of the British for the bully. Yet the Soviet President's credibility with the West is now on the line in Lithuania. Words, carefully chosen, may weigh less on the scales of international politics than guns or butter, as Mr Gorbachov knows better than most. His first friend and foremost defender in the West, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is the person best qualified to administer the warning that if the Soviet Union tramples on the Lithuanians' right to self-determination for the second time this century, he will cease to be "a man one can

do business with". There is no shortage of advice urging the Prime Minister to go easy on Moscow in this dispute. Apart from pro-Soviet voices on the left, who until recently used similarly spurious arguments to justify Soviet hegemony over central Europe, the most impressive argument for leaving Mr Gorbachov to his own devices in the Baltic states has come from Lord Home. He argues that it is in our interest to deal with a single, strong Soviet leadership. A weakened, let alone a toppled, Gorbachov would be a greater threat to Britain in the long term than a crushed Lithuania.

Yet even the most robust view of British interests must be inseparable from the values for which this country made such sacrifices half a century ago. The Baltic states were among the victims of the Nazi-Soviet alliance, which made Hitler's conquest of the European mainland possible; a conquest that obliged Britain first to fight alone, then to accept Stalin as an ally even while aware of his hideous crimes.

The Lithuanians have at last begun to heal their wounds. This they can only do if the Soviet authorities admit the illegality of its annexation and all that flowed from it.

Under the 1939 Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, Lithuania — unlike Latvia and Estonia — was assigned to the German sphere of influence. Only after the German invasion of Poland was Lithuania reassigned to the Soviet sphere in exchange for a partition of Poland more favourable to Germany. Is it conceivable that Britain, which has never recognized Soviet sovereignty over the Baltic states, would fail to excommunicate such bullying of Lithuania from the Germans? If not, present Soviet conduct should be treated as equally unacceptable.

British mandarins tried long and hard to make excuses for Stalin. Behind Mikhail Gorbachov, the ghost of Uncle Joe can still be seen stalking the Kremlin — and haunting some corridors in Whitehall. The Prime Minister, who last week used President Havel's visit to exorcise the spirit of Munich, can dispose of this demon too. She should leave Mr Gorbachov in no doubt that his claim to moral superiority over his predecessors depends on his treatment of Lithuania.

COLD COMFORT IN THE COMMUNITY

The National Health Service and Community Care Bill inspired a revolt in the House of Commons earlier this month and now starts what is likely to be a rough passage through the House of Lords. For once, its troubles concern not the health service but the second half of its title, community care.

The principle of the measure is sound, that responsibility for the elderly, disabled and infirm should pass "into the community", from local health authorities to local councils. The change was meant to represent a more humane and flexible approach, and for once it showed Government confidence in elected local authorities. But the whole issue is now engulfed in the storm surrounding the poll tax.

So far, the grants councils will receive from central Government will include an amount calculated (but not designated) to cover the extra cost implied by the care legislation. But it has not been "ring fenced", that is to say, earmarked for this exclusive purpose.

The extra cost of community care will, in consequence, have no special claim, but will have to take its place in the queue alongside other calls on expenditure. Since in most areas, councils are desperately seeking to hold down poll taxes, all budgets are being squeezed. The Association of Directors of Social Services has expressed acute alarm at the consequences.

Unless the Government can find some new means of protecting the implementation of its measure, some of the most vulnerable members of the community will be the first victims of the poll tax, as care for them passes across the financial divide between central and local government. There is a special poignancy about their predicament. The ideal of placing more emphasis on community rather than custodial care was correct, reducing the role of old-fashioned, state-administered institutions in favour of families and communities.

Yet the result may push a rising number of

mentally or physically handicapped, ill-equipped to survive outside institutions without support, into a custodial wilderness. The intended transfer of funds from the big health service institutions to smaller ones run by local councils and to home-based welfare services risks becoming a fiasco. A report by the Audit Commission last autumn criticized the two groups of administrators for their failure to work together.

Now the poll tax issue is focussing attention on resources, in an area where value-for-money is notoriously hard to define. Clearly a policy of care in the community will be a cruel joke if not properly administered and funded; with cardboard cities substituting for Victorian asylums.

The Government drafted the community care clauses of its present Bill with the best of intentions. Unfortunately, these intentions have coincided with the first year of the poll tax. What should be an overall improvement in care may actually be a drastic worsening.

Certainly, community care should not be more expensive in the long run. But the transitional period, when big institutions must remain available while alternatives are built and staffed, is likely to cost more. Unless this is reflected in the level of local council grant, the Government will be guilty of willing the end while withholding the means.

There are signs that the Government has accepted the political necessity of softening the impact of the community charge on individuals. It should also soften the impact on those for whom the community has to care, by protecting the services on which they depend. The Government does not like the device of ring fencing. If so, it must find another way of guaranteeing that money intended for society's most vulnerable people reaches its destination. This is a far better destination for the millions apparently available to buy off Tory back-benchers with poll tax rebates.

DOGS OF WAR

The danger of Mrs Thatcher being literally savaged by her critics was narrowly averted yesterday when a march by Rottweilers to Downing Street was cancelled. Four owners wisely decided discretion was the better part of canine honour and handed in a petition at Number Ten instead. They feel that they are being victimized by public opinion.

The real question is whether the nation is being tough enough. The Kennel Club points out that only three people actually died from dog bites in the first nine months of last year (none in 1988 and only one in 1987). That is minor comfort to victims of ferocious canine assaults, many of them infants. There is no conceivable reason to permit fierce animals to add to the number of vicious dangers faced by children, just because they are classed as domestic pets.

The dearth of reliable statistics is the most formidable of the chicanes erected against human fear by defenders of canine freedom, but the pendulum is swinging in the humans' favour. Legislation was tightened last summer, to give magistrates powers not only to order dangerous dogs destroyed, but to nominate a specific executioner and fine severely owners evading the court's sentence. Such penalties, imposed after the event, still offer little solace to savaged victims.

The Dog Handling Act of 1975, requiring dogs to be permanently tethered except when with an experienced handler, applies only to guard dogs on commercial premises. Dogs such as Rottweilers are perfectly free to roam at will. Two recently wandered into a school and savaged a number of children. The growth in the number of these dogs is reported to have "peaked", but the total runs into many

thousands. They are unstable, potentially lethal and quite unsuitable as free-ranging family pets. Fashions in fearsome animals certainly change. Twenty years ago the Dobermann Pinscher was top of the villainy league and the pit bull terrier — a mongrel bred for fighting — is fast overtaking the Rottweiler.

The danger from these dogs is not imagined. They are frequently used by criminals who regard them, with good reason, as anti-personnel weapons obtainable free of licence under cover of domestic pets. Since they are potentially as dangerous as explosives, guns or unsafe motor vehicles, the Government's reluctance to legislate to control them is extraordinary. It is the more so when even the Kennel Club is in favour of municipal dog wardens to police every kind of aberrant behaviour, from fouling pavements to biting legs. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has called, at very least, for a registration scheme. Police have shown that more than nine people in 10 would be in favour of more stringent controls.

Even this would not deal with the dangerous breeds. It should be a criminal offence to allow certain named breeds out of doors without muzzles or leads. There is also a strong case for including dogs bred for their ferocity, such as Rottweilers, pit bull terriers, and crossbreeds bearing their genetic imprint, within the Dangerous Animals Act of 1976. This covers several hundred wild creatures, from gorillas to spitting cobras or giant ant-eaters. Those who insist on keeping fierce or dangerous animals under cloak of domesticity should no longer be indulged. They are a potential menace to the community and the law should regard them as such.

Probation officers in self-defence

From the Chief Probation Officer, Middlesex Area

Sir, In drawing attention (report, March 23) to the Commons Public Accounts Committee's report on the Home Office's control and management of the probation service, you highlight the rise in prison sentences, but fail to mention that this was arrested in 1988. The proportionate use of custody for 17 to 20-year-olds peaked in 1985 and declined dramatically in 1989, to the extent that young-offender institutions are being closed.

In the Middlesex area the magistrates courts' use of custody for 17 to 20-year-olds fell from 13 per cent in 1985 to 6 per cent in 1988. This was the second highest rate of decrease in England and Wales. There were also substantial reductions in the magistrates courts' use of custody for adults, while crown court centres in the area are among those making least use of custody.

This is particularly noteworthy because Middlesex has no day centres and the absence in some areas of day centres is singled out by the Public Accounts Committee as evidence of the probation service's failure to provide the courts with an effective range of non-custodial sentencing options.

The Home Office is proposing wholesale changes to the organization of the probation service, all with the common theme of establishing firmer control from the centre and ironing out diversity. As justification for this misguided centralism, ills are being attributed to the service which cannot be demonstrated.

The probation service is daily offering the courts detailed, carefully-designed programmes for supervising individual offenders in the community; the courts are responding by making orders on increasingly heavily-convicted offenders; and the probation service is supervising the great majority of

those without breakdown or risk to the public.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALTERS,
Chief Probation Officer,
Middlesex Area Probation
Service,
4th Floor, Glen House,
200 Tottenham Court Road, W1.
March 23.

From the Secretary of the Central Council of Probation Committees

Sir, You report the Commons

Public Accounts Committee as

saying that "social inquiry

reports... have apparently been

used as alternatives to fines". This

is based on a misapprehension. Such reports, which are of a factual nature, are requested by the court to assist in the sentencing process. Inspectors can be blamed for many things, but the suggestion that "some probation inspectors have created friction with the courts" does them too much credit.

HM Inspectorate of Probation is quite inadequately resourced to undertake effectively all that is required of it by way of monitoring individual services and the dissemination of information and good practice guidelines. We have long urged upon the Home Office the need for a strong and vital inspectorate which, if properly resourced, would assist in the development of effective services throughout the country.

We welcome the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee that the inspectorate be strengthened and that there should be better arrangements for the prompt dissemination of good practice, as well as its recognition of the vital balance between the autonomy of local probation services.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN MILES, Secretary,
Central Council of Probation
Committees,
38 Belgrave Square, SW1.
March 23.

Research constraints

From Dr Tony Rees

Sir, Your obituary (March 22) does less than justice to Lord Rothschild's intention in proposing, in 1971, that Government departments should be given the money and made responsible for commissioning applied research from the research councils.

It is clear from the text of his report, "The organization and management of government R & D" and also from his subsequent evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology that his concern was not that "too much money was spent on open-ended research and too little on solving industrial problems". Indeed, he goes out of his way in the report to assert that the question of balance between the two cannot be meaningfully addressed.

I was associated for 35 years with one of our longest-running data banks on the effects of environmental changes in the sea. This series had already shown the biological effects of rising environmental temperatures in the period from 1920 to 1960 and their reversion during a period of cooling from 1962 to 1981. We were well poised to show further changes if global warming accelerated; but all work ceased in 1987 when the NERC withdrew funding.

He argued that the research councils are well qualified to decide priorities for basic research, but not as well qualified to decide what the needs of the nation are as those responsible for ensuring that they are met. Hence, decisions on the priorities for research are not always as clear-cut as they might be.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. SOUTHWARD,
108 Durfond Street,
Plymouth, Devon.
March 23.

Hospital land

From Dr David Eversley

Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent correctly points out (March 20, later editions) that the health regions' capital spending programme has been badly hit by their failure to sell surplus land to house builders. The article highlights two extraordinary aspects of present-day policies in the fields of public-sector finances and of land-use planning.

It is clear from the continuing debate that the way in which Government supports research is not yet a closed question. Rothschild's contribution was to clarify one of the important issues; we should analyse and use the results of the experiment he started.

Yours etc,
A. I. REES,
(Coordinator for Commissioned
Research, Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, 1974-89),
PO Box 63, Godalming, Surrey.
March 23.

From Professor A. J. Southward

Sir, Mrs Thatcher's speech at the Royal Society (report, March 23) includes a suggestion for setting up data banks to study the responses of wildlife to environmental changes. Several research organizations in the UK have al-

most work to this end, some of them having over 70 years' data. Many of the compilers of these records have seen their efforts nullified in the past 10 years by cuts in Government support for such "open-ended" projects.

Many of these schemes came under the remit of the Marine Science Division of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Granted Mrs Thatcher's genuine interest in plans to monitor changes in the environment, it is unfortunately too late to start new time-series to study global warming without baseline data.

I was associated for 35 years with one of our longest-running data banks on the effects of environmental changes in the sea. This series had already shown the biological effects of rising environmental temperatures in the period from 1920 to 1960 and their reversion during a period of cooling from 1962 to 1981. We were well poised to show further changes if global warming accelerated; but all work ceased in 1987 when the NERC withdrew funding.

I am keeping some of the work going as a private venture. Suggestions that the observations should be restarted in the currently improved financial climate for environmental research have been disregarded.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. SOUTHWARD,
108 Durfond Street,
Plymouth, Devon.
March 23.

Sistine restoration

From Miss E. H. Ramsden

Sir, George Hill reports (March 22) that an exhibition is shortly to be opened by the Pope to vindicate the cleaning and conservation of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel.

Whether or not to clean the vault and the lunettes is a question that has raged both before and ever since the project was undertaken 10 years ago. What is certain, however, is that if the cleaning had not been undertaken we should have lost the frescoes altogether.

The health authorities' appeal rests on the fact that if they cannot sell their land profitably they will lack the means to build other hospitals and to provide community care for the patients discharged from institutions. Since community care will now largely be the responsibility of local authorities, it is assumed that part of the proceeds of these land sales will go to the Treasury.

Will that body then refuse to reimburse local authorities for their newly-imposed expenditure because the budget was assumed to be met, in part, from these controversial land sales?

This seems a haphazard method of determining levels of required public expenditure, as well as using rather emotional arguments to subvert statutory green belt protection.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID EVERSLY (Honorary
Planning Adviser, Hertfordshire
Conservation Society),
Hunmersett, Cotters,
Buntingford, Hertfordshire.
March 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782) 5046.

March 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Effect of British Library's cash loss

From the President of the Library Association

Sir, The Minister for Arts and Libraries announced in November that the British Library was to have an extra £1 million towards the cost of planning for the move into its new building next to St Pancras station and nearly £3 million on the grant-in-aid, a welcome addition after several years of reductions in ac-

quisitions.

The library had already decided to move some 300 jobs concerned with bibliographic services from London to its site at Boston Spa, in Yorkshire, on grounds of economy and efficiency and because there will be pressure on space in the new building.

This is no way to ensure the maintenance of the stock and services of one of the world's three or four greatest libraries, which ought to be a major source of national pride and which is the envy of almost every other national library (so much so that the French have decided to spend much greater sums of money on a new Bibliothèque de France).

The Treasury's decision seems quite extraordinary. It creates serious financial problems for the library; it defeats its attempts to plan its future sensibly and cost-effectively; it does damage to the rest of the nation's library system, and it evidently goes against the intentions of the minister. It would be illuminating to know how such a decision came to be made and approved.

It affects nearly all the nation's libraries, which have suffered continued and serious reductions in their own funding and depend more and more heavily on the British Library's services.

Yours etc,
MAURICE B. LINE,
President,
The Library Association,
7 Ridgmount Street, WC1.


**COURT
AND
SOCIAL**
**COURT
CIRCULAR**

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 26: The Duke of Gloucester this evening presented architectural awards at the Annual General Meeting of the Westminster Society which was held in the Great Hall of Westminster School, London, SW1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

March 25: The Duchess of Kent arrived at Gatwick Airport, London, this morning from the United States of America.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

March 26: The Duchess of Kent, as a Trustee, this evening attended a Soirée Musicale in aid of the Jacqueline du Pré Me-

morial Fund at St James's Palace, London SW1.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales has accepted an invitation to be president of the Royal Agricultural Society of England for 1990-91. He takes up the new position in October.

Today's royal engagements

THE QUEEN will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the English National Ballet, will attend the company's fortieth anniversary gala at the Albert Hall at 7.40.

Prince Michael of Kent, as patron, will attend the Hyde Park Appeal luncheon at the Household Cavalry Barracks at 12.30; and will present the Royal Aero Club Awards at the Lansdowne Club at 5.30.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.S. Bligh

and Miss J.E. Lawrence

The engagement is announced between Peter Stuart, only son of Mrs Dorothy Bligh, of Minehead, Somerset, and Juliet Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late David Lawrence and Mrs Jane Hodge of Fawler, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.K. Ditchian

and Miss S.L.M. Corr

The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs M.G. Ditchian, formerly of Chorleywood, Herts, and now of Great Missenden, Bucks, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs G.C. Corr, of Bath, Avon.

Mr D.R. Meschutt

and Miss C.S. Bevan

The engagement is announced between David Randolph, son of Mr and Mrs P.F. Meschutt, of Dix Hills, New York, and Sarah Caroline, eldest daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs Christopher Bevan, of Chelsea.

Mr R.A. Moller

and Miss C.E. Conway

The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of the late Mr Peter Moller and of Mrs Marie Moller, of Nairobi, Kenya, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Conway, of Coldharbour, Dorking.

Major R.J.G. Whitelaw

and Miss L.A. De Jean

The engagement is announced between Robert John Gordon, son of the late Mr and Mrs E.W. Whitelaw, of Strathearn, Ross-shire, and Lesley Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.S. De Jean, of Crail, Fife.

Marriage

Mr A.C. Radford

and Miss L. Parry

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 24, at St Michael's Church, Waddington, Lincs, of Mr Anthony Radford, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Radford, of Langford Hall, Newark, to Miss Lynda Parry, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Parry, of Waddington.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and Mr Jonathan Radford was best man.

A reception was held at The White Hart Hotel, Lincoln, and the honeymoon is being spent in Thailand.

Luncheons

Prime Minister

THE PRIME Minister was host at a luncheon held yesterday at 10 Downing Street in honour of M. Michel Rocard, Prime Minister of France. The other guests were:

THE French Ambassador, Mme Elisee, M. Philippe Pauchant, Foreign Minister and Mr Charles Powell.

HM Government

THE HON Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of delegates to the UK-Japan 2000 Conference.

Royal Overseas League

THE HIGH Commissioner for Botswana was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's hosted by Sir Lawrence Byford, chairman, and members of the Central Council of the Royal Overseas League.

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce

MRI BRIAN Fall, British High Commissioner to Canada, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon given by the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce yesterday at Le Meridien, Piccadilly. Mr Michael Lowe, president, presided. The Deputy High Commissioner for Canada was among those present.

Dinner

House of Lords

LORD Whitelaw CH, MC, last night hosted a small dinner party in the Counsel's Dining Room, House of Lords, to launch the Chest Heart and Stroke Association's Appeal to found a Professorial Chair in Stroke Medicine at Nottingham University. Those present were: Lord Stansgate, Sir Alan Parker, Peter Fenster, Mr Barry Foster, Richard Stevens and Mr Tim Thorne-Healy.

Requiem mass

REQUIEM Mass for the repose of the soul of Sir John Pitcher, GCMG, will be celebrated at the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer & St Thomas More, Cheyne Row, Chelsea, on Thursday, March 29, at noon.

Latest wills

Mr Jerome Orway Fane De Salis, of East Woodley, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,003,133 net. He left his estate mostly to his wife.

The will was given in marriage by her father and Mr Jonathan Radford was best man.

A reception was held at The White Hart Hotel, Lincoln, and the honeymoon is being spent in Thailand.

University news

Oxford
THE CARROLL Foundation and the Carroll Institute are to found a new chair at Oxford University, the Carroll chair in Irish history. The foundation's financial commitment is £1.2 million. The Carroll professor, who has yet to be appointed, will be a fellow of Hertford College.

A new fellowship for European Studies is to be established at Oxford. The post, which will make possible a donation from the Deutsche Bank Foundation, will be associated with the West European Centre at St Antony's College. It will be named in honour of the first President of the European Commission, Professor Walter Hallstein.

The City solicitors Simmonds and Simmons have undertaken to bear the cost of subscribing to European law journals over five years for the Bodleian Law Library at Oxford. The initiative, the first of its kind made through the Campaign for Oxford, could become a model for support from the professions for higher education.

Elections
THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE
Oxford, October 1990, to Lancing College, October 1990. Dr. Ian Johnson (Lancing College) and Karen J. Lester (Gardiner College) were elected to the Queen's College. N. G. Veltrop, MD (Copenhagen).

WOLSTENHOLME COLLEGE
TO AN EMERITUS FELLOWSHIP FROM OCTOBER 1990: A. B. W. Ward, FRS, London, Professor Emeritus. Dr. John R. H. Green (Lancing College) and Karen J. Lester (Gardiner College) were elected to the Queen's College. N. G. Veltrop, MD (Copenhagen).

Cambridge
DARWIN COLLEGE
TO AN EMERITUS FELLOWSHIP: P.M.J. Miller (Oxford), PhD Emeritus Professor of Italian, University of Cambridge. To an Official Fellowship: A.M. Pitt-Rivers Lecturer in Comparative Science.

Glasgow
Grants

Commission of the European Communities: Prof. P. G. D'Antonio (Electronics & Electrical Engineering) to study economic integration of PLPs and DEDs expression and control of gene expression in plants.

Mr D. J. D. Smith (Chemical Sciences & Engineering Research Council): £123,000 to Professor S. L. M. Williams (Chemical Sciences & Engineering Research Council): £100,000 to Professor S. L. M. Williams (Chemical Sciences & Engineering Research Council) for the GRASP infrastructure project.

Aberdeen

The university has appointed Professor Derek Urwin to a chair in the department of politics and international relations from October 1. Since 1981 he has been professor of politics at Warwick University.

Edinburgh

Lord Murray, a General Council assessor on the Court of the University of Edinburgh, has been elected to serve in the newly-established post of Vice-Chairman of the Court. Lord Murray has been a member of the court since 1981.

London

The university has founded a new Institute of Romance Studies. The institute becomes the twelfth in a group of Senate institutes providing a focal point for research and expertise in their specific subject areas. Professor Malcolm Bowie has been appointed as the first director.

Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine (St Mary's Hospital Medical School)

Dr Elena Garralda, formerly reader in child and adolescent psychiatry, University of Manchester, has been appointed to the chair of child and adolescent psychiatry on January 16.

Dr John Knott, reader in mechanical metallurgy at Cambridge University, has been appointed to the chair and headship of the school of metallurgy and materials at Birmingham, from September 1.

Nottingham

The university is to confer honorary degrees on the following July.

Mr Brian Clough, Manager of Nottingham Forest Football Club (Honorary Degree of Master of Arts); Mrs Vivian Finnbogadottir, President of Iceland (Doctor of Laws); Mr

OBITUARIES
COMMANDER BRADWELL TURNER

Bold rescue of British seamen from German prison ship



COMMANDER Bradwell Turner, CVO, DSO, OBE, who led the boarding party from the destroyer HMS *Cossack* in the famous episode during which 299 British seamen were liberated from the German prison ship *Altmark* in a Norwegian fjord in February 1940, died on March 21. He was 92.

To Turner is ascribed the memorable cry: "The Navy's here!", which announced to captives who had resigned themselves to miserable years in PoW camps that they would, after all, be seeing their homes again.

Like the sinking of the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* two months before, the *Altmark* affair was an inspiring one at a time when British arms had little to show for six months of hostilities with Germany. Poland had fallen; the RAF was dissipating much of its energy dropping propaganda leaflets; and at sea losses of both merchant and warships were mounting. *Cossack*'s bold action, personally ordered by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, was a heartening boost to the Navy's morale, and Turner's famous cry has passed into legend.

On December 13, 1939, after a three-month career in which she had sunk nine merchant ships, the commerce raider *Graf Spee* had been brought to bay by the cruisers *Exeter*, *Ajax* and *Achilles* off the Rio de la Plata. She sought refuge in Montevideo where, on December 17 her captain, Langsdorff, had her scuttled. For some time the whereabouts of the seamen she had taken prisoner from the merchant vessels she had sunk remained a mystery. Then the account of a British merchant marine officer who had been at Montevideo suggested that they had been transferred to *Graf Spee*'s auxiliary,

Altmark, which became virtually a floating prison.

After the elimination of *Graf Spee* *Altmark* hid in the South Atlantic for two months, hoping for the hue and cry to die down before making her way back to Germany. Bad weather helped her to remain hidden as she passed between Iceland and the Faeroes, but in February 1940, she was spotted by British reconnaissance aircraft in Norwegian waters.

Pursued by a British destroyer force she took refuge in the Jösing Fjord. When the British ships went in after her they were met at the fjord mouth by two Norwegian torpedo boats whose com-

manders informed them that *Altmark* had been inspected, carried no arms and had no prisoners on board. The Norwegians told the British that *Altmark* had been given permission to proceed to Germany using Norwegian territorial waters. The destroyers therefore withdrew.

When the Norwegian reply was conveyed to Churchill at the Admiralty he determined on bold action. He was convinced that the prisoners were on board *Altmark* and ordered Captain Vian, commanding the British force, from the destroyer *Cossack* to board her and release them, with or without Norwegian cooperation.

Turner received a DSO for his part in the action and saw further service during the war. But he contracted polio soon after the war, and this curtailed his naval career.

He read for the Bar by correspondence, but never practised, although he put his knowledge to good use as a JP for Chelmsford and chairman of the bench there.

He had left the Navy in 1957, and, until 1972 worked for IBM.

In 1980 a "Forty Years on" reunion of old *Cossack* shipmates recalled that memorable night which has its niche in the annals of the Royal Navy.

Retiring from industry in 1975, de Havilland joined Hawker Siddeley. Kennedy was appointed Group Director and Chairman of Hawker Siddeley International in London.

The pioneering days were definitely over. He undertook entire responsibility for the Canadian operations of the Group and travelled constantly to North America,

was Kennedy's job as company secretary. He had volunteered for the Navy at the outbreak of the Second World War but a sharp-eyed official refused to release him, thus he was forced to maintain the low profile which characterized his later business life.

When, in 1960, de Havilland joined Hawker Siddeley Kennedy was appointed Group Director and Chairman of Hawker Siddeley International in London.

Apart from farming, his hobbies were sailing, shooting, rugby, football, tennis and golf.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, two sons and three daughters.

During the majority of this time I was the Assistant General Secretary who was his prime adviser and Secretary of the Committees named.

Everyone who has occupied such a position knows that chairmen fall broadly into one of two categories: one who accepts advice (without question and hoping it is sound), or one who listens to the advice and then takes as much trouble as is needed to master the problems so that he becomes the person truly "responsible".

Tony Cayzer was a princely example of the latter.

AN WANG

Computers for office and home



DR AN WANG, the Chinese-born engineer who became one of the world's major computer manufacturers, died on March 24 at the age of 70.

In 1945 An Wang, the son of a schoolmaster, made a shrewd judgment about his prospects when he decided to emigrate from China during the Second World War had been Japanese-occupied Shanghai. He reached the United States and three years later received a doctorate in applied physics and engineering from Harvard University.

Within a few years he was able to sell IBM a patent for his invention of the computer core memory — a small doughnut-shaped ring of iron serving to store computer data and which was a precursor of the now ubiquitous microchip — for half a million dollars.

After establishing that there were British held captive below decks, Turner ordered the hatches to be unbolted, and nearly three hundred prisoners poured up deck from their enforced quarters in cargo holds, store rooms and empty oil tanks.

Transferred to the British destroyers they made passage home to Britain and received a heartfelt welcome when *Cossack* berthed alongside at Ler.

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Everyone who has occupied such a position knows that chairmen fall broadly into one of two categories: one

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever lives and believes in the word, never dies." St John 11: 25-26.

BIRTHS

CARTWRIGHT - On March 25th, at The Portland Hospital, London, to Nicolle (née Green) and Andrew, a daughter, Olivia Anna. Mother and father are well and father is recovering well.

CHILD-MILLERS - On March 24th, in Kent, to Alan and Linda, a son, Christopher. A daughter, Debbie, is born.

CROOK - On March 20th, to Glyn and Sue, a son, Peter. Pepys John Donald, a son, for Jamie and Robbie.

CROSS - On March 21st 1990, to Susan (née White) and John, a son, Alexander. Helen, a daughter, Sophie, for Jamie and Robbie.

FRYER-BROWN - On March 25th, to Sue (née White) and John, a son, Alexander. Helen, a daughter, Sophie, for Jamie and Robbie.

DAVIES - On March 19th, at Raeside, Inverness, to Nicky (née Richard) and David, a daughter, Amabel. A son, Edward.

DAWSON - On March 26th, to Carol and Alan, a son, Robert, a son, Alexander.

DURRIS - On March 17th, to Gordon and Margaret, a son, Tom, a son, Michael. Howard Christopher.

EDFERS - On March 22nd, at The Portland Hospital, to John, a son, Christopher. A daughter, Emily Elizabeth.

FEDERS - On March 20th, to Susan (née Chedziah) and Brett, a daughter, Emily Sophia, a sister for Charlotte.

HITCHCOCK - On March 13th, at St Bartholomew's Hospital, to Arthur and Julie Anne (née Burton), a daughter, Sally Jordan.

JOLLIFFE - On March 13th 1990, to Dawn (née Phillips) and Gordon, a son, Callum Fergus.

LAWRENCE - On March 24th, to Cheryl (née St Pier) and Tristan Lambeth, of South Lodge, Wetherby Green, Skipton, a little girl, Sophie Fleur, a sister for Oliver.

PERRY-HUNT - On March 23rd 1990, in London, to Brian and Seamus (Randy), a son, Michael James.

RAND - See Pott-Hunt.

SHAW - On March 23rd, at The Portland Hospital, London, to Stephen and Fiona, a son, a brother, James Patrick Mayo.

SOUTHERN - On March 23rd, in California, to Julie (née Ritter) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Henry Ritter.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

COVENTRY-ASHTON - On March 27th 1940 at Bromley Oratory, London, Frederick to Lola, by the Rev'd C.C. Martindale.

MOWER WHITE-SEASIDE - On March 27th 1940 at St. Mary Magdalene, Teddington, Surrey, Peter (mister) Mower to Jane Eastwood (St) at 401 Elm Tree Court, Elm Tree Road, London, NW8 9JT.

DEATHS

AMBROSE - On March 23rd 1990, at Testerton, Mary Travers, formerly of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, Dame of the late Edward and Eva Ambrose, of Hamilton, Ontario. Sister of the late Judge J.A. and Mrs. Ambrose, died at 86 years old, aunts of James and Judith. Served with the Canadian Red Cross. Funeral service Saturday 24th March 1990, 2.30 pm, followed by cremation at Vinters Chapel, Chapel Walks, Woodstock Road, London, NW8 9JT.

DEATHS

COX - On March 23rd, at Bromley, Mary Travers, formerly of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, Dame of the late Edward and Eva Ambrose, of Hamilton, Ontario. Sister of the late Judge J.A. and Mrs. Ambrose, died at 86 years old, aunts of James and Judith. Served with the Canadian Red Cross. Funeral service Saturday 24th March 1990, 2.30 pm, followed by cremation at Vinters Chapel, Chapel Walks, Woodstock Road, London, NW8 9JT.

DEATHS

THE ARTS

Sisters and mothers

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

FOR *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4), Polly Bide and Helena Kennedy had a remarkable film on Sister Elaine Roulet, a Catholic nun in New York who spends much of her time reuniting children with their imprisoned and often murderous mothers. Within Bedford Hills maximum security prison she has set up a family centre. That is all the more impressive, given the brutality of a system where, elsewhere, prison guards sometimes train their guns on visiting children.

No one doubts the guilt of these mothers — indeed one coolly confessed to camera the murder she had committed. But Sister Roulet's point is that they still have small children who need parenting, children who have been known to break into gaol, in an attempt at reunion. Sister Roulet has fought the local Westchester community, which objected to the children of prisoners being moved into the area, and she has now found more than 100 local households willing to put up the kids while they visit their mothers.

All moral judgements apart, it is surely evident that children should not be punished for the sins of their parents. Separation while in prison is just such a punishment. But, in Sister Roulet's view, the stigma of parental imprisonment is somehow lessened by regular contact. Her work ought surely to be examined in some detail by penal reform commissions over here.

On *Panorama* (BBC 1) Ian Smith was looking at the increasing tension between developers and conservationists as the greening of Britain becomes more and more apparent. Not that this is always a good thing: the white cliffs of Dover now appear to be turning green as a direct result of engineers' interference, thereby necessitating not only a rewrite of the Vera Lynn lyric but also serious objections to the Channel Tunnel, which is causing all the trouble.

Conservationists perceive the regionalization of the Nature Conservancy Council as a tardy governmental attempt to cstrate it, and they could well be right. Meanwhile, Magnus Magnusson talks of "healthy creative tension" between developers and preservers. I have started, so I'll finish.

Hermann Prey, making a London Wagner début this week, talks to Barry Millington

Birdman of Nürnberg

DONALD COOPER

When Hermann Prey takes the Covent Garden stage on Thursday night as the town clerk, Beckmesser, in John Cox's production of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, he will be rising once again to one of his favourite challenges. The pedantic critic, Beckmesser, who steals the hen Wahn's song in an attempt to get the girl, is one of the least-lovable characters in opera.

But according to Prey, the traditional way of playing him — as a shambling, imbecile buffoon — is wrong. "As the *Stadtschreiber*, or town clerk, he would have commanded respect; he is the one professional man among the Masters, the most educated, the only one with Latin." He is also head of the police and therefore the superior of the Nightwatchman, which makes it richly ironic that after the riot, which he has unwittingly provoked by his serenading, he has to hide from the Nightwatchman.

Prey believes that Beckmesser should therefore be played and sung with dignity, and quotes Wagner on the subject. After the first performance in Munich in 1868, Wagner wrote to the Vienna conductor Heinrich Esser, complaining that the singer who had created the part, Gustav Holzé, had made Beckmesser into a buffoon. He should be as serious as the other Masters: only the situation in which he finds himself makes him appear ridiculous. Prey believes that Beckmesser's romantic infatuation with Eva also makes him act irrationally.

When had Prey evolved this interpretation of Beckmesser? Was it for his famous appearance in the role at Bayreuth in 1982, in Wolfgang Wagner's production? "No, I had it in my mind long before." In the 1960s, he had been singing Wolfram in *Tannhäuser* for Wolfgang's brother Wieland. "One day you will be my Beckmesser," Wieland had said. But Wieland had died in 1966.

Not for another 15 years was Prey invited to Bayreuth to tackle the role. He told Wolfgang Wagner that he wanted to make the character quite different from the traditional caricature.

Did Prey not find a contradiction between such a sympathetic portrayal of the character and the nature of the music Wagner gives



Hermann Prey in rehearsal on stage at Covent Garden as Beckmesser in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

him to sing? "It is certainly very difficult to sing, but I try to sing it beautifully, like *Lieder*. For some people, it may be too beautiful."

But Wagner is only a small part of Prey's repertory. In particular he is known for his Mozart, and has done all the baritone roles. Which gives him the most pleasure? The answer is a surprise: "Popagano". He has played the amorous bird-catcher all over the world, and is due to do so again this summer. "A 60-year-old Popagano. Not bad, eh?"

He has not been seen at Covent Garden as much as many people would have liked, and not at all, in opera, in recent years. The last production in which he appeared was that of *Die Fledermaus*, first seen in 1977. Prey repeated his Eisenstein in the first couple of revivals, but latterly his place has been taken by Thomas Allen. He has, however, given no fewer than five *Lieder* recitals at Covent

Garden, as well as at the Wigmore Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and the Edinburgh Festival.

Was he, then, devoting more of his time to *Lieder* these days? "Yes, I'm doing less opera now. There's another generation of directors and conductors coming up," he adds obliquely, by way of explanation. The idea of the Schubertiade, which he founded in Hohenems, Austria, in 1976, has been taken up elsewhere. In Vienna a similar project is in its sixth year and in New York in its third. Two more are planned, in Würzburg and Japan. In each place, the idea is that Schubert's whole oeuvre — the orchestral and chamber music as well as the songs — is performed in chronological order over a period of 10 years. The beauty of the concept, as Prey enthusiastically points out, is that the music "gets better from year to year", as the master-works of Schubert's maturity are approached.

He clearly has a special affinity with Schubert, who "long ago became the centre of my life", and to prove it he tells a curious anecdote. Thirty years ago, when he first learnt the song-cycle *Winterreise*, he found that, try as he might, he always made the same three mistakes — small matters of rhythm and text-setting. One day, when he was allowed to study the autograph manuscript in the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, he found, to his amazement, that at those same points, Schubert had originally written what he had been singing. He had unconsciously been reproducing Schubert's first thoughts. "I did wonder then if there was some connection between heaven and earth."

• Performances of *Die Meistersinger* are at the Royal Opera House, Floral St, London WC2 (01-240 1066), opening on Thursday, and then on April 3, 6, 9, 12, 16.

Dissolving the borders

WORLD MUSIC

David Toop
Ryuichi Sakamoto
Dominion

"THIS is my first concert in London since YMO days," said Ryuichi Sakamoto, referring to a long-past performance given by his Japanese techno-rock trio, Yellow Magic Orchestra. "I'm a bit nervous," he admitted, "but excited." The audience had some cause to be nervous also, since trans-global musical fusion (an idiom in which Sakamoto is increasingly involved) can fall flat when transferred from the recording studio to the stage.

Sakamoto has discovered heart and feeling, though, and has discarded the role of Japanese technocrat. He calls his music "outer nationalism", a Utopian art without national boundaries, and cheerfully confesses to the personal re-awakening of hippy idealism that this suggests. Aside from the ideals, this was no hippy show. The organization of a musically and technically complex two hours was virtually faultless.

At centre-stage was Youssou N'Dour, the remarkable singer from Senegal, and to one side were

two diminutive Okinawan women in kimonos. They compensated for being the smallest musicians on stage by consistently stealing the limeight. This they accomplished by singing raucous, nasal folk melodies, emitting shrill rhythmic whistles and playing plangent-toned Japanese stringed instruments called sanshins.

On the other flank was a hyper-active percussionist, beating numerous noise-makers from Brazil and Africa. These four, with a drummer, bass-guitarist and guitarist, Sakamoto and star session musician Nicky Holland playing keyboards, produced a lush, exotic and hard-hitting sound. At times, N'Dour's crying vocals blended eerily with the keening of the Okinawans and the strange timbres of electronically sampled ethnic instruments. At its most extreme, the cultural range traversed history as well as the globe. While the Okinawans played a repeated folk melody on their sanshins, Sakamoto answered with tragic chords that could have come from the pen of Mahler. The effect was moving and hypnotic.

The greater part of the set was taken from Sakamoto's superb new album, *Beauty*, but for an encore he chose to play his theme for *The Last Emperor*, describing it as one of his best hits.

Right up at the front

RECITAL

Paul Griffiths
Ixion
Purcell Room

Finnissy himself, as conductor, won tense, active support from the accompanying sextet. Fiercely imaginative within a simple, driven state, ending with a sour, delicious twist, this is altogether a remarkable piece.

The scoring of its accompaniment, for oboe and clarinet, cello and double bass, and two trombones, provided the ensemble for Toovey's new *Adam*, where the subtlety of Finnissy's instrumentation is exchanged for bald oppositions of pairs, often in rudimentary and aggressive gestures. There were calmer moments of much greater accomplishment, sometimes with the woodwinds sliding over one another, but again the antithesis between these and the nasty bits was brutal.

There was also a pretty shocking contrast between the Toovey and the other Ixion member's piece, Clapperton's *The Parliament of Four Furtit Beasts*, which takes its title from Robert Henryson and suggests, in bagpipe-ish doodles for piano, oboe and cello, what Satie might have done if he had gone back to discover his roots.

Lies a-mouldering?

Alasdair Cameron
John Brown's Body
Tramway, Glasgow

dodging major issues is further heightened by McGrath's Olympian disdain for every form of socialism except, one assumes, his own. The play therefore has a decidedly pessimistic and hopeless end, which seems to hint at a dangerous power vacuum in which the working class can trust nobody.

But the essential problem is that the jolly format of songs interspersed with Dave Anderson's lovable clown routine as the "Lumpen Proletariat" means nothing can be examined properly. At the heart of *John Brown's Body* there are exciting ideas about the growth of modern industrial society. Though a 30-minute, rather recherché examination of 19th-century forms of punishment does pall, it is infinitely more interesting than the caricatured parade of Tories and class traitors which goes before and after.

The staging of the show, borrowed in equal measure from Ariane Mnouchkine's *1789, Starlight Express* and *Les Misérables*, is interesting, although the audience risk cracking their necks. The music, apart from a couple of awful sub-Weill songs is excellent, sung and played with a conviction that is lacking in some of the acting.

But it is about time McGrath stopped concentrating on making his good nights out even better and went back to challenging us and making us think.

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Sacrifice of play for stars

THEATRE

Diane Hill
Quelque Part dans cette vie
Les Bouffes Parisiens

LIFTING a play out of one language into another can be done by faithful translation, skilful adaptation, or unashamed re-creation. Jean-Loup Dabadie opts for re-creation in his handling of *Park Your Car in Harvard Yard*, a two-hander by the American contemporary playwright Israel Horovitz.

Reworked and directed as *Quelque Part dans cette vie (Somewhere in This Life)*, by Dabadie — who is better known as a writer of songs, sketches and film-scripts — this hard-baked, *Angst-laden* slice of Uncle Sam becomes a mid-Atlantic, sentimental round of tea-time bread-and-butter on which to spread the jam of having the illustrious Pierre Dux and the ingenuous Jane Birkin on stage together.

Like much of Horovitz's work, *Park Your Car in Harvard Yard* (the title is the American equivalent of the elocution jingle "The rain in Spain") takes an unblinking look at 20th-century social problems. The message is that learning opens the doors to the good life, while being deprived of it leaves one forever looking through the keyhole.

Jacob Brackish is a retired teacher whose forte during his working life was awarding zero marks to those he considered to be intellectual riff-raff, in order to scotch their university chances. After receiving a zero, Kathleen Hogan becomes his live-in housekeeper, seeking vengeance.

Dabadie's excessively clever dialogue batters over the play's dramatic depths. The glib one-liners raise laughs, but reduce Horovitz's savagely drawn characters to pasteboard cutouts. The story unfolds not as a series of emotional tableaux, but as a concertina of stilted images.

His direction, too, is a curious sort of pop-up theatre. The two characters take up positions around the stage without much structured movement in between. There is a strong impression that Dux and Birkin have been left to their own devices, though the roles have been tailored to fit them like gloves, and in this respect Dabadie's verbal

handicraft is *haute couture*.

Horovitz's hard-bitten school-teacher and vicious ex-student disappear, leaving the stage to Dux (one of France's most respected *hommes du théâtre*) and the English film actress Birkin, who has lived in France since her début in Richard Lester's *The Knack*, and whose simplicity, charm and halting French have made her a regular on television chat-shows.

Dux's professionalism, experience and dramatic presence give the production the backbone it would otherwise lack.

Birkin, hesitant and unsure at first, draws courage from Dux to fill out and exist in her own right within Dabadie's street-wise yet gauche character, until it is hard to know where the actress ends and the acting begins.

Yet these two perfectly at-

tuned performances beg the question: was it necessary to sacrifice the guts of Horovitz's play in order to achieve them?

McGrath stopped concentrating on making his good nights out even better and went back to challenging us and making us think.

But it is about time

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THE ARTS

In advance of the contemporary art fair *Art London 90*, Adrian Dannatt offers collectors financial rather than aesthetic advice

What price taste when buying art?

Trust your own taste and only buy art works that you really like? Wrong. The standard advice to anyone about to plunge into the contemporary art market is severely out of date. If you want to buy art as an investment, an object of financial as well as aesthetic appreciation, then you would probably be wise to forget all about your own taste.

If, on the other hand, you are repelled by the idea of buying art as a commodity – as just another, smart product – then you understand very little about the contemporary art market. In which case, you would be well advised to steer clear of shark-infested seas.

In theory, populist gatherings such as *Art London 90* – the fifth International Contemporary Art Fair, opening at Olympia this Thursday – are intended to do

away with the snobbishness associated with buying art. Sponsored by British Airways and clearly aimed at those with money to spare but not necessarily any experience of buying art, the fair will exhibit more than 1,200 artists, whose works bear price-tags from £50 to £500,000. Here you will find every kind of gallery, hawking every imaginable shape and style, from photo-realistic paintings of trucks to the most minimal sculptures. But the deliciously arcane codes of the international avant-garde still apply, and a serious collector is obliged to follow them. Contemporary art is both expensive and elitist.

The sharp end of contemporary art is a confusing, intellectually complex place. Real collectors, with more art than they could ever display even in a Tuscan villa or SoHo loft, know everything that is

happening, and understand latest developments in critical thinking and cultural production. They tour galleries and skim through every glossy art magazine. They know what, in American parlance, is "hot" and what is not. No auction price or bad review goes unrecorded.

For the rest of us, a few guidelines, crassly simplistic though they will seem to the connoisseurs: never buy cheap, never buy figurative, and avoid paintings done on canvas. Paintings are not really very "now", and the collector's skill depends on acute judgements of precisely when "then" becomes "now" and vice versa.

What is unmistakably fashionable is the cult of objects: artefacts that hover between self-conscious sculptures and everyday appliances, between the *objet trouvé* and the carefully crafted. If you have to ask yourself the question "Is it art?", it is worth investing in.

For sure returns, another good policy is to buy American. Manhattan artists have far higher status, deserved or not, than London counterparts in the same field. Chauvinism, and inverted chauvinism, play a big role in contemporary art.

Cologne and FIAC in Paris are among the most important art fairs, and have recently been joined by ARCO in Madrid. Although 120 galleries from 16 countries will be exhibiting at *Art London 90*, this fair is not among the biggest players. Nevertheless, there will be interesting trends to be spotted at Olympia.

A gallery such as Salama-Caro (which is relatively new to Cork Street), is among the few which will be showing younger British artists – but its prices reflect the location. However, there are some bright, small galleries which have all the requisite international contacts – reciprocal arrangements with New York or Cologne, for instance – and are not afraid to deal in bold, complex, and often controversial young artists.

Interim Art is the ideal gallery for a new, young collector interested in contemporary work, who enjoys the challenge of the difficult and whose budget stretches from £500 (below which the object is probably not worth buying) to a few thousand pounds – which rules out more established artists. Run by Mar-

leen Paley, quintessential New Yorker in exile, Interim has a spicy roster of the more conceptually-minded international artists. It is, moreover, particularly strong on "artists' multiples": pieces made in small editions – a Warhol-like concept with a decidedly high investment appeal.

Consider the case of Jenny Holzer, an extremely hot American artist, who deals with subverted forms of public proclamation: official pronouncements or advertising jargon short-circuited upon itself. A year ago at Interim Art you could have bought a simple black aluminium plaque, with one of her fake clichés stamped upon it (such as "It is embarrassing to be caught and killed for stupid reasons"). In an edition of ten for £550.

Since then, however, she has had a one-woman show at the Guggenheim in New York, been chosen as sole representative of American art at the Venice Biennale, and starred in the latest film by Dennis Hopper, a collector of her work. At a Sotheby's auction last month, the same plaques were selling for £2,100. A multiple, by definition, is not unique, but it is usually rarer and more important than an etching or any type of print, few of which appreciate sufficiently to be worth buying as an investment.

Interim also represents the promising British artist Angela Bulloch, who uses what look like early-1970s lighting fixtures to build her own mysterious and atmospheric installations. Also interesting is the young British art team, Langlands & Bell, who make elegant, beautifully crafted pieces, often on the theme of architectural plans and their coded, ideological meaning. For example, their "Air Routes of North West Europe (Night and Day)", in an edition of five, look at first like austere abstractions. But when you see how they represent night and day routes, they call into question our aesthetic value-judgements: the way we assume some signs to be art and others commerce, how we daily confuse abstraction and representation.

The whole point of an Art Fair is that one should feel free to buy that little still-life etching by an unknown Swedish student. The



Not only on canvas, but figurative, so doubly unfashionable: Cameron Galt's "Vanity", shown by Houldsworth Fine Art at Art London 90

point of contemporary art collecting is that one should feel obliged to buy that mysterious supermarket object by a New York Superstar. One may be prettier, the other more profitable: the choice is yours.

• *Art London 90* is at London Olympia from Thursday, March 29 to April 1, open 11am-8pm each day.

Vintage tribute

VARIETY

Sheridan Morley
Cook's Tour
Shaftesbury

THE LATE Ray Cook was less famous than he should have been. The Australian pianist, conductor and arranger worked on more than 40 West End musicals between his arrival here in 1960 and his death last year. *Cook's Tour* at the Shaftesbury was a remarkable memorial to his talents.

It was also the first production by West End Cares, an organization of London theatre workers dedicated to raising money for AIDS charities. Around £60,000 was earned overnight in Cook's name by a gala which vastly improved on the usual run of thrown-together Sunday charity concerts. Too often the good cause is the only good thing around.

But *Cook's Tour* reunited Angela Lansbury with Bea Arthur (from *Golden Girls*) to celebrate the *Mame* they first sang on Broadway two decades ago. It also allowed Liz Robertson to sing numbers from the *King and I* she has been touring with Nureyev, and Evelyn Laye to win a standing ovation merely by walking down stage as the one singular sensation from *Chorus Line*.

This was a celebration of British and American musical theatre at its greatest. But it was also a poignant reminder of the talents being lost through sudden death and the general evanescence of the old style big-band show. The ghosts of Bob Fosse, Michael Bennett, Gower Champion and Alan Jay Lerner were all around the Shaftesbury on Sunday night, as were some of their greatest shows. *Cook's Tour* brought back not only the scores that seem to be in constant revival – *My Fair Lady*, *Sweet Charity*, *Old-Horn!* – but also those that we have unwisely allowed to fall into disuse: *Pippin*, *Sail Away*, *Oh What a Lovely War!*

From Maria Friedman's breathtaking "I Happen to Like New York" to the veteran Elisabeth Welch in the title song from *Pippin*, this was a vintage evening. Even its ending, with two small children singing "Tomorrow" in what could have been the most appallingly sentimental of clichés, became in the context of West End Cares a moment of heartbreaking optimism.



Abstract wins points but canvas does not: "Configuration", by Frank Avery Wilson at *Art London 90*, is not fashionable at the moment

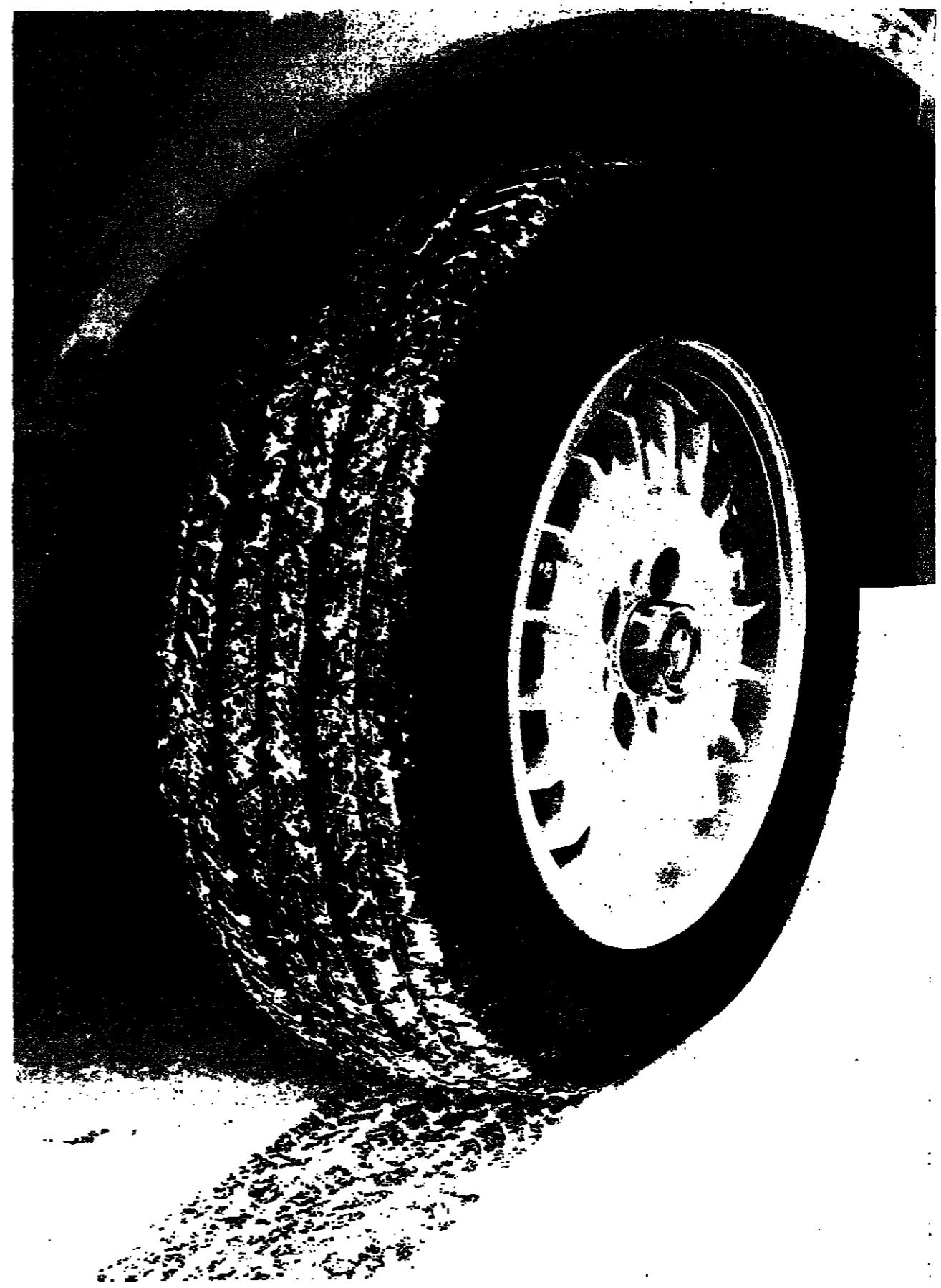
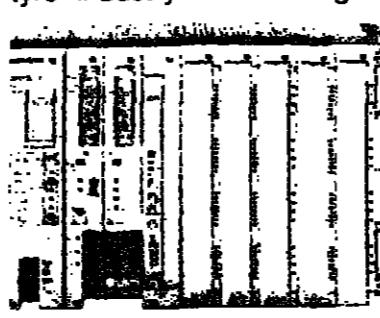
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Enter the muscular Christian

Dr Robin Eames, the Archbishop of Armagh, is a front-runner for the See of Canterbury. But how would the Church react to his dynamic and masterful style? George Hill reports

Some archbishops are as wise as serpents, and some as harmless as doves; only a few succeed in being both, as Christ recommended. The retiring incumbent of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, is manifestly a dove, though there may be reservations in Downing Street about how far he has been harmless.

The prelate most prominently tipped to succeed him, in what is a very open field, is a man of a very different mark, definitely serpent rather than dove. This may endear him more to Mrs Thatcher, who will, in effect, have the final say in the appointment, than to the churchmen who will pick the short-list of names she will choose from.

The Right Reverend Dr Robin Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, has for years moved expertly in a world of subtle diplomacy among the embattled factions that have an interest in Northern Ireland. Some who have watched his activities closely in recent years have also gained an impression of competitiveness and personal ambition. His private view of the way Dr Runcie has handled the agonisingly difficult problem of the Lebanon hostages is said to be highly critical.

As one close observer of Irish bishops has put it: "He is not a man dogged by dogma" — adding that it was difficult to distinguish the churchman in him from the politician, the bureaucrat and the diplomat.

Only a rather unworldly observer would suppose that a drive to reach the top, and thereby to maximize one's ability to do good, is necessarily a disqualification for the highest office in the Anglican Church. But, being what it is, the Anglican Church may well feel uneasy at the prospect of finding a dynamic and muscular archbishop at its head. In Aesop's fable, the frogs asked Zeus to choose them a king, and he threw a log into their pond. Finding their new ruler boring, they petitioned for a more exciting sovereign. Zeus sent a stork, who soon made

In 1988, Dr Runcie appointed

them wish the log was king again. By history and temperament, the Church tends to be more comfortable with King Log than King Stork.

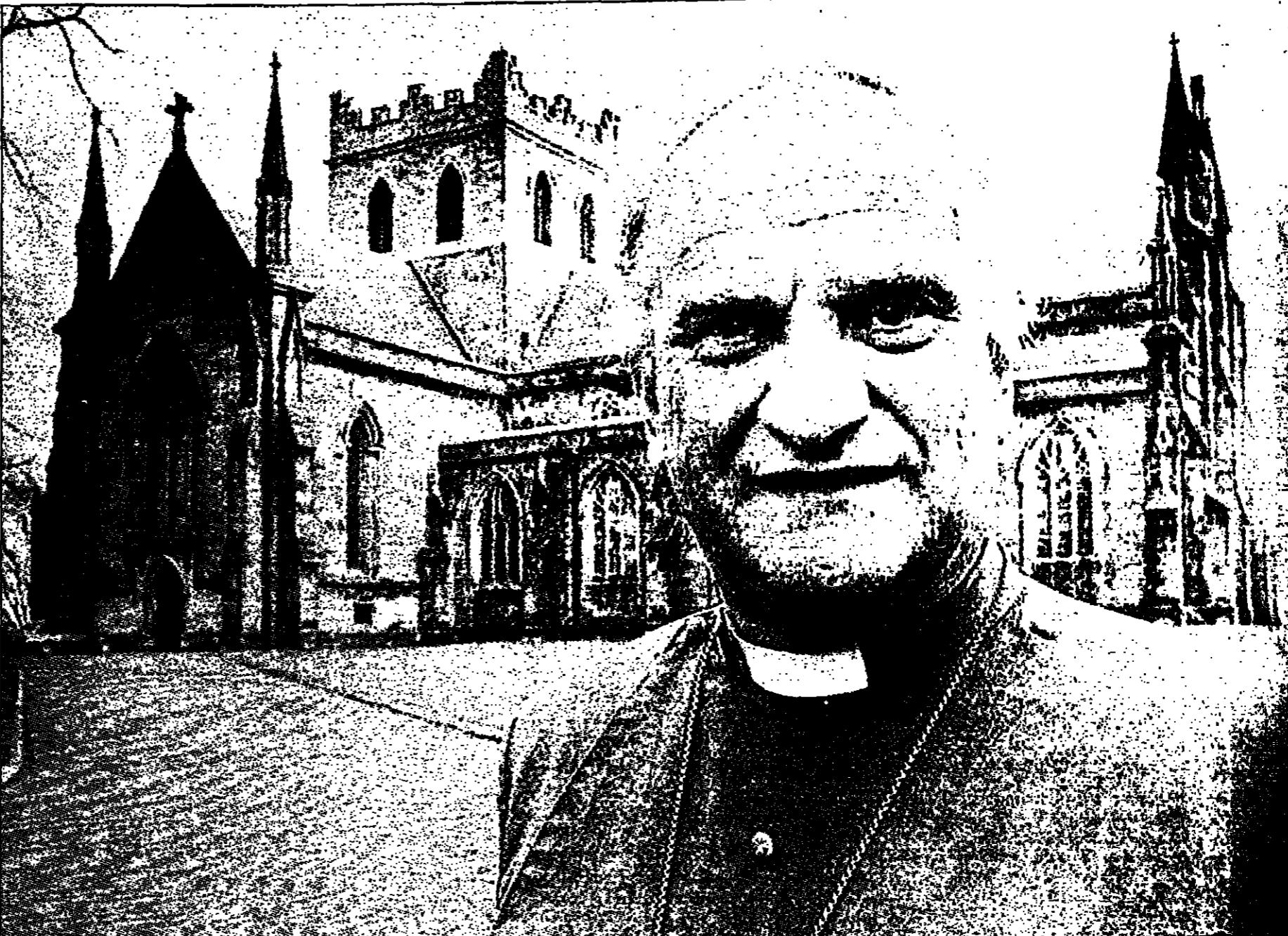
There is a sharp contrast in manner and style between the two men. Runcie has a diffident, anguished air, and manifestly took scant pleasure in the prominence his office brought him. He creditably professes to be looking forward after retirement to the trivial round, the common task and the 20 black Berkshire pigs which, Emsworth-like, he has reared down in the country. In fact, there is more steel in his composition than he allows to show.

Dr Eames is a forceful mover of men and events, and is not recorded to feel impelled towards the washing up or the pigsty. He is a rugby man, and on summer weekends he is out of canals into oilskins as often as he can manage, sailing to win in his high-performance 30ft cruiser-racer on Strangford Lough in County Down. Bellowing "Starboard!" through the rain-squalls, he is the epitome of muscular Christianity.

Dr Eames has found himself much in the lime-light in recent years, and has shown every sign of enjoying it. He became Anglican Primate of All Ireland in 1986, and has interpreted his role much as one of mediator between communities and politicians. He knows Margaret Thatcher fairly well, and Charles Haughey rather better. He has the ear of the chief constable, the cardinal, and the SDLP, and his contacts with the Orange Lodges are close.

The qualities of the dove must in some measure be an essential qualification for such a role, and the pastoral requirements have at times been harrowing. He has buried scores of victims of sectarian violence, and in 1987 he had to help families of victims of the Enniskillen bombing as they identified the shattered remains of their loved ones. He has written a book about the problem of suffering.

Last week Dr Eames gave an interview to a local news radio station in Ulster, in which he flirted with the possibility of glory in an almost Heselian way. He was speaking before Dr Runcie had announced his retirement, but very much as a publicly tipped member of the bunch of front-runners in a contest that was sure



Heir to the Runcie throne? The Right Reverend Dr Robin Eames, a prime mover of men and events, forcefully critical of the Church's handling of the hostage crisis

him chairman of an international commission in the Anglican Communion on the ordination of women. This key role in the most acute debate within the Church today guaranteed him a high profile on the national, as well as the provincial, stage. By general consent, he has played the dove to some effect here, too, by leading the commission towards a set of proposals which are likely to prove acceptable to most parties.

Lime-light is unavoidable in these roles. But it is whispered that he has backed into it with more gusto than is altogether befitting. Some journalists in Northern Ireland believe that they detect a thinly disguised strategy to promote his claims to the top job. He takes his public image, as portrayed in the newspapers, very seriously indeed.

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to take place within two years, before Dr Runcie reached the age of compulsory retirement.

A sked about his feelings about a possible preference to Canterbury, he replied: "It is not possible for anyone to say whether they would welcome or not welcome any challenge. You have to acknowledge when you are ordained in the Church that you have to look at every challenge given to you and say: 'Is that what you think God is asking you to do?'

The interviewer asked him about reports that he is highly regarded in Downing Street. "As far as the Prime Minister is concerned, she has shown at times, I think, a willingness to listen to anything that I have had to say, as she has listened to so many other people," he replied. "I find that what people say (is) that she seems to acknowledge some of the things I have said and done — well, I hope she listens to them."

A hint at what sort of new broom he might prove to be at Lambeth may be gained from a report of a source close to him about his private view of the way

the Runcie administration has handled the problem of Terry Waite and the other hostages in the Middle East.

He is said to have been critical in his comments. He felt that basic lines of inquiry had been followed up, too weakly in the months following the kidnapping of Terry Waite, and that the episode showed signs of hesitancy. Underlying his comments, it is said, was a clear assumption that given the chance, he would adopt a more upbeat and possibly interventionist strategy to bring the hostages home.

His Ulster experience perhaps gives him claims to feel that he understands the psychology of the gunmen better than Dr Runcie. He has had great experience at working behind the scenes to bring people together across the divide of tribal enmity.

But the suggestion of an eagerness to set about knocking heads together and sorting the terrorists out is likely to stoke a pang of dread in the dove-cotes of the Church of England. The Anglican Church is a structure which has designed itself with a multiplicity of checks and balances, to the

point where every interest-group can be confident that though it may never get its own way, it can ensure in perpetuity that its opponents never do.

He happens to have one further characteristic which may intensify the pang of dread. He is only 52 years old, which is young for the See of Canterbury. Dr Runcie was aged 59 when he was enthroned, and most of the other serious contenders this time round are in their late fifties or early sixties. It is not so much the prospect of an archbishop too young to give due weight to the office, that may create fear (it is one of Dr Eames's strengths, in fact, that he is an excellent performer on television), as the prospect that an archbishop aged 52 would have up to 18 years ahead of him in the hot seat. A man could do much with his hands on the levers of power for so long a period. Barring illness, Mrs Thatcher could be choosing an archbishop well into the next century.

Mrs Thatcher may not be at all averse to the prospect of a strong Archbishop. But the selection is not entirely in her hands. She can only choose between the names on a short-list of two submitted to her by a commission of churchmen. She could reject both and hold out for the candidate she prefers, at the cost of a considerable fine reopening the whole vexed question of the relationship between the Church and the secular power.

In practice, the name of Dr Eames will be quite difficult to keep off the short-list whatever body of opposition there is in the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury is head not only of the Anglican Church but also of the whole Anglican Communion of 60 million souls.

It would be diplomatic to acknowledge this fact by short-listing a bishop from outside England, but there are many candidates who would have difficulty in taking the necessary oath of loyalty to the British Crown. Eames, as a contender who is British but not English, will have strong claims to a place on the list.

If he is there, even in second place, the Prime Minister will be free to consider whether or not she would like to provide the Church with King Stork.

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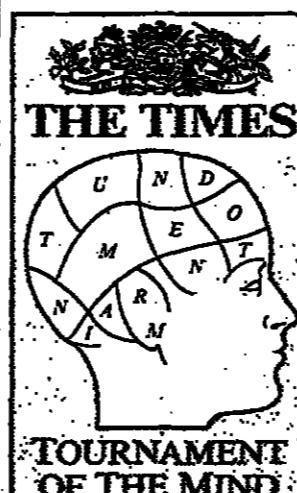
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Tournament of the Mind

- Round 19, the penultimate round of Tournament of the Mind, is one of the most difficult. Mensa devised the questions to increase in difficulty as the competition progressed. A postal address for entries will be given tomorrow.
- Thousands of readers are playing for £5,000 or, for the school teams, a Hewlett Packard computer. But all who enter the Tournament will receive a certificate. Those who score above a certain level will get personalized certificates in bronze, silver and gold.

1. VERBAL

Two words have been overlapped. Both words have the letters printed in their correct order, but one word reads from left to right, the other reads from right to left. There are also two bogus letters included in the list. What are the two words?

N P R I E C T T A E R L E E S V Q O U E N

2. LOGIC

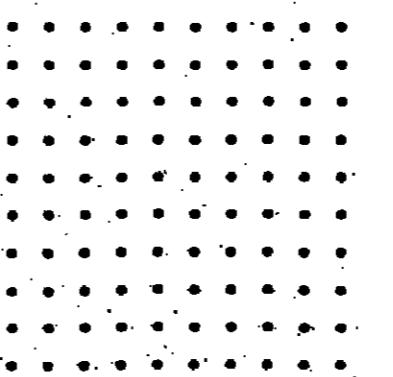
Your clock was correct at midnight but gains 16 minutes per hour. The clock now shows 2.15pm but it stopped exactly one hour ago. What is the correct time?

3. MATHS

A snail has crawled up a slope. It covered the following distances: 10 inches, 15 inches, 20 inches and 25 inches in the following respective speeds: 6 inches per hour, 5 inches per hour, 7 inches per hour, and 4 inches per hour. However, the snail slid back over each distance at the respective rates of: 3 inches per hour, 2 inches per hour, 1 inch per hour and 1 inch per hour. How long did it take to cover the total distance?

4. DIAGRAMS

How many squares can be constructed within this diagram? Each corner of each square must rest on a dot.



MISCELLANY

Which continually active volcano has an altitude of 18,347 feet?

ROUND 19 - ANSWERS

Cut out this coupon and keep your answers until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons published in *The Times*.

PUZZLES

Answer 1.

Answer 2.

Answer 3.

Answer 4.

MISCELLANY

Answer

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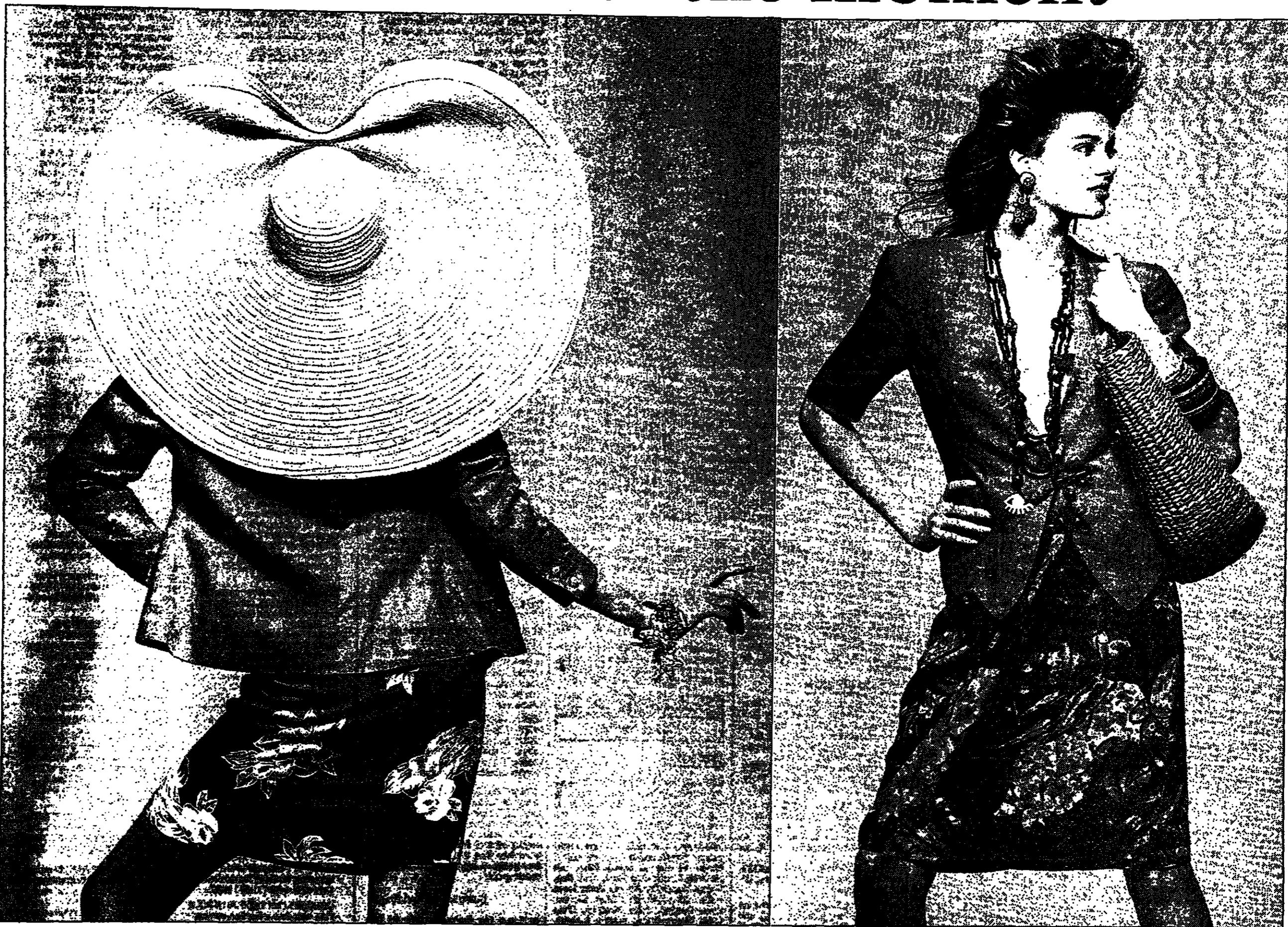
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FASHION by Liz Smith

In the heat of the moment



It's a jungle out there, complete with parrots, palms and pareos, as a tropical storm of exotic clothes sweeps through the stores

The flower-splashed pareos of Gauguin's Tahitian beauties have always held a mesmeric attraction for fashion designers. Exuberant flowers and exotic fauna from his Polynesian paradise have regularly been plundered for inspiration.

The uninhibited surge of colour and pattern in the shops this season is clearly Gauguinesque in spirit. Fashion followers can succumb to their sylvan instincts and escape to a stylish, tropical Eden. Even the languorous glamour of the pareo — simply, for the purposes of everyday clothing, a wrap skirt — is now firmly established as the easy way to disrupt the boring formality of the basic suit.

Palm fronds sway on the new season's swimsuits and matching pareos, while gold fringing takes fashion close to the hula skirt. Hibiscus pink and coral linen jackets slip over skirts that are only a hook and eye and a few cunningly ready-fixed swags away from a Bali Ha'i-style pareo. It is hardly surprising that many stores have felt inspired to plot a course for some far-flung destination as the theme for this season's promotional thrust.

Captain Cook's third voyage to the South Pacific is recorded in a display of engravings in Harrods' Central Hall, while up on the fashion floor the racks of Polynesian sarongs and colourful prints prove that when scouring markets for their "From the Ends of the Earth" promotion, the Harrods team found particular riches in Gauguin's tropical paradise.

Katharine Wells
Gauquin-inspired sarong, £195, Mani; Gauquin-inspired primed sarong, £78, Yarnall; yellow straw basket, £19.90, Benetton; all Selfridges, W1. Venetian glass earrings, £44.95; metal/seed necklace, £115; coiled bead bracelet, £44.95; raffia bangles from £19.95, Liberty, W1.

Liberty is celebrating the vibrant arts and crafts of Mexico from April 5. Alongside the sort of tin and paper mache bird-cages and picture frames you might find in an Oaxaca market, there are colourfully embroidered Sunday-best shirts and smocks from Mexico and Guatemala, its neighbour, perfectly in tune with fashion's enthusiasm for the ethnic.

There is even a heady whiff of the exotic in Marks & Spencer, with jungley printed cotton sarong skirts and good-looking chambray shirts with an embroidered bib front, both at £19.99.

But it is Selfridges which has set its sails most purposefully in the direction of the South Seas. The whole store is awash in the lush colours of the South Pacific, not just in the vivid blues breaking over coral and sand on the main fashion floor, but with shells, pearls and raffia crafted into jewellery, bags and belts in the accessories department. Butler & Wilson's luscious pineapple pin, for example, costs £28, with matching ear clips for the same price and a bracelet at £58.

Parrots, toucans and blue macaws have colonized the china department. Hibiscus, orchids and palms burst in tropical profusion in the flower shop. Fish *vakalala* with tapioca, followed by guava tart, is on the lunch menu in the restaurant. Only the swish of surf on silver sand is missing.

Escada, Yarell and Oui Set are labels to look for when investing in the more tailored "beachcomber" style. Armani's less expensive Mani line includes soft sarong skirts to wear with his classic, muted check jackets with their easy, collarless line.

The tropical mood in fashion can be captured equally well with more classic, and some might say more chic, shades of white and sand. A high-necked, long-line tunic or short-sleeved safari jacket can be buttoned over trousers, the fashionable knee-length shorts, or a soft, sulky wrap-over skirt for the new look.

And down in Selfridges' basement, Thomas Cook is even running a competition to win a holiday in Fiji. *Nau mai mahana* — wonderful days.



HOT LINE

Softest sell

THE names above the shop fronts along Bond Street have steadily switched in recent years from British to foreign. But last week Ballantyne, the cashmere company, bucked this trend by opening its first store there, snuck between Givenchy and Hermès. One of British fashion's spectacular export successes, it flies the flag in the new shop in the classic shape of the British cashmere cardigan, with its traditional grosgrain ribbon binding, fashionably buttoned in gilt.

The cardigans, priced at £220 for cashmere or £75 for superfine merino wool, look irresistibly neatly stacked on slate and cherrywood shelves in Ballantyne's spectrum of delicious colours. Displays of smart striped *marniers*, button-down sweaters and traditional V-necks for men and women transform the shop into a sumptuous cocoon.

Alistair Blair, the Scottish designer recently appointed at Balmain ready-to-wear in Paris, introduced his cashmere collection for Bal-

lantyne. Ronald Miller, head of the Dawson International group, the world's largest cashmere processors whose star performers include Braemar, Pringle, Barrie, Glenmac and McGeorge as well as Ballantyne, says that price is not an issue. "Cashmere is the diamond of our textile industry," Miller says with pride.

Guiding lights

WHAT do Princess Margaret, Glenda Jackson, Anita Roddick, Kim Wilde, Clare Short and Sally Oppenheimer have in common? The indelible fashion experience of being buttoned inside the blue shirt and navy skirt of the Girl Guide uniform, complete with scarf and woggle, that has been little changed for 80 years. All are invited to the London fashion show on April 18 when Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders of all shapes and sizes will parade the new uniforms that have taken Jeff Banks and his design team two years to develop. Regional fashion shows will follow.



Wealth of Nations

Traditional Hungarian shirt from a unique collection of the world's indigenous clothes, imported exclusively by Wealth of Nations. For your free copy of the collection call 01 823 3580, or write to: Wealth of Nations, 37 Tedworth Square, London SW3 4DW.

Above: Paprika linen jacket, £195, Mani; Gauquin-inspired primed sarong, £78, Yarnall; yellow straw basket, £19.90, Benetton; all Selfridges, W1. Venetian glass earrings, £44.95; metal/seed necklace, £115; coiled bead bracelet, £44.95; raffia bangles from £19.95, Liberty, W1.

Above left: Hibiscus pink linen jacket, £185, Mondi; pineapple-primed scarlet sarong skirt, £49, La Blanca; carwheel hat in yellow straw, £29.95; starfish charm bracelet, £295; all Selfridges

Left: Brightly-embroidered Guatemalan shirt in thick cream cotton, £28, Marilyn Garrow at Liberty. Shorts in printed silk, £22, Nicole Farhi; white straw hat, £10.50, Sandra Phillips; both Selfridges. Venetian glass earrings, £195, Liberty. Far left: Panter-print swimsuit, £26.95, Esposay; wooden cuffs, from £6; all Selfridges. Raffia hoop earrings, £15.95, Liberty. Grass skirt and raffia belt by the "Pacific Way" exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, W8.

Make-up by Charlie Duffy. Hair by Ayo for Dobson & Davison. Photographs by CLIVE ARROWSMITH

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS UNITE!

Join thousands of pet owners who have registered their animals on the National Pet Register — an established animal identification scheme operated by a leading animal welfare charity to reunite lost pets with their owners.

Why? because registration means greater security for both you and your pet through our 24 hour lost pet emergency phone service and third party insurance cover. But that's not all. You'll be helping to support an organisation whose aims are to minimize the heartbreaking destruction of strays and reduce problems caused by uncontrolled animals.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY PET?
Simply fill in and return the application below, together with a cheque or postal order for £5.00.

Details of your pet will then be entered into our computer system — and you will be sent, by return, an engraved identification disc for your pet's collar carrying our 24 hour emergency phone number.

*£5.00 fee for life-long registration for your pet, as well as third party insurance for one year (renewable annually - £2.00).

Please send completed application to:
National Pet Register, Caithill Road, Heydon, Herts, SG9 8PN. Telephone: 0763 433222

NATIONAL PET REGISTER

I enclose £5.00 for registration of my pet on the National Pet Register. Please send identification disc and registration form.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____ Postcode _____

Name of Pet _____

Type _____ Colour _____

PREVIEW

TODAY Theatre & Cabaret

● WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music ● THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books ● FRIDAY Classical Music ● MONDAY Art & Auctions

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

NEW IN LONDON

ABBEYDON SQUARE: Intense, moving and beautifully performed play by Maria Irene Fornes, first seen in this same production at the Soho Poly: a woman suspended in marriage in the early years of the century. With Annabelle Aspin, Philip Voss and Pearce Quigley. National Theatre (Contest), South Bank, SE1 (01-828 2252). Underground: Waterloo. Previews from tomorrow, 7.30-9.15pm. Opens Thurs., 7.30-9.15pm. Then in repertory, £25.50.

BESIDE HERSELF: Sexual abuse, the how and the why: Sean Daniels' new play begins with humorous cracks and then comes to the crunch. Royal Court, Sloane Street, SW1 (01-730 1745). Underground: Sloane Square. Previews from tomorrow, 8pm. Opens April 4. Box office Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat (from April 7), 4pm. Mon 24, Tues-Sat 23-25, Sat mat 24-25.

EDEN BLACK THEATRE: Season continues with Steve Carter's play, set in 1920s New York where a sophisticated West Indian girl loves a Southern Black boy. Abby James of Tambo Theatre directs. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-733 3354). Underground: Hammersmith. Previews from Fri, 7.30pm. Opens April 2, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm (no per Fr), April 13. Previews 24.50, from April 25. Until April 14.

FIGARO GETS DIVORCED: Horvath's 1938 sequel to Beaumarchais' *Figaro*, Almaviva and the rest adapt to the Revolution which Horvath transfers to modern times. British premiere.

Gate, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Paddington Road, W1 (01-229 0708). Underground: Notting Hill Gate. Previews, tonight, tomorrow 7.30pm. Opens Thurs. 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 25. Until April 21.

LOOK, LOOK: Stephen Fry, Margaret Courtenay, Robin Bailey in Michael Frayn play about an audience, so maybe the reverse of *Noises Off*, though presumably still funny. Alwyne, The Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Previews from Fri, 7.45pm. Opens April 17, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8.30pm, mats Wed 8pm, Sat 8pm. Previews 24.50, from April 17, 25.50-21.50.

THE MISER: Roy Marsden plays Molière's Harpagon torn, though not for long, between love and money. Mike Alfreds's touring production for Oxford Stage Company in London for three weeks. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-828 0363). Underground: Waterloo. Preview tonight 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thurs and April 5, 2.30pm, and April 7 and 14, 2.30pm. Preview 25, from March 28, 2.30pm. £10, mats 25-21.50.

CANT PAY? WONT PAY: Revolting housewives take over the supermarket: Patricia Blair and David Roper lead a revival of Dario Fo's anarchic farce. Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, 27.21.50. Until March 31.

JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELLED: Tom Conti takes over the well-known drunk-about-town locked overnight in his favourite pub. A great show if you're into the company of drunks.

Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-237 2683). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, 25. Until March 31.

MAN OF THE MOMENT: Michael Gambon and Peter Bowles superb in Ayckbourn's masterly harsh comedy: good meets evil on the Costa del Sol. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-747 3367). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 8.30pm, mats Wed 3.30pm and Sat 5.30pm, 27.21.50.

MOSCOW SHADOWS: Barbara Lott and Joanne Tewson as two Moscow widows trading on the edge of the law, caught up in a murder case.

New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW3 (01-794 0022). Underground: Hampstead. Tues-Sun 8pm, mat Sat 4.30pm. Tues-Thurs and Sun 8pm; Fri and Sat eve 8.30pm; Sat mat 25. Until April 8.

NOEL AND GERTIE: Patricia Hodge and Simon Callow spar, sing and dance in Sheridan Morley's trim down Memory Lane.

Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1 (01-933 2578). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 4.30pm, 25. Until March 31.

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA: The Winter's Tale (See Whitehaven for comment)

Newbiggin Sports Centre, Woodhorn Road (0670 814444). Fri, Sat, Mon, 8.15pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 5pm, 25.50-21.50.

SAIN'T OSCAR: Stephen Rea plays Wilde reviewing his life with Lord Alfred and Sir Sebastian in Field Day's production of Terry Eagleton's bold but flawed first play. Ends April 7.

Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (01-722 9301). Underground: Swiss Cottage. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, mat Sat 8pm. Sat eve 8.30pm-22.50, mats 25-21.50. From March 25, 25-21.50.

SHADOLANDS: Nigel Hawthorne and Jane Lapotaire in fine and moving play about C.S. Lewis's Indian summer love. Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-734 1160/01-439 3848). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm, 25.50-22.50, mats 25-21.50, mats 25.50-21.50.

WHITEHAVEN: The Winter's Tale. Manchester's Royal Exchange Mobile Theatre here for three days with Phyllida Lloyd's sizzling production.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2137

ACROSS

1 Magazine opus (11)
9 Contaminated (7)
10 Tennis lobby (5)
11 Period (3)
13 Shallow (4)
17 Obscene (6)
20 Sheep (4)
22 Chimp (6)
23 Desert watercourse (4)
25 Nutty edible fungus (3)
26 Before (5)
28 Bloody (7)
30 Collective stand (6,5)
DOWN

2 Royal Berks racecourse (5)
3 Date (4)
4 S Africa money unit (4)
5 Chancy (4)
6 Brilliant glass (7)
7 Ingratiate oneself (5,6)
8 Sergeant's male heir (5)
12 Shopping passage (6)
14 Also (3)
15 Apology (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 2136

ACROSS: 1 Campaign 5 Opus 9 Astoria 10 Photo 11 Soft pedalling

13 Sims 15 Sleep 17 Hang by a thread 21 Lords 22 Gimnick 23 Ruth

24 Biostats

DOWN: 1 Caps 2 Motif 3 Apropos 4 Guardian angel 6 Profile 6 8 Prof 16 Eva 18 Sat

Not to Stalin's taste



Iaac Babel's reputation rests primarily on his short stories, although this Soviet writer would certainly have left more than his two surviving plays had Stalin not banned his work, sent him to a prison camp and shot him. Marya (previewing from Thursday at the Old Vic) is the work that alerted the authorities to his political unreliability — that is, his urge to show life as it is and not how despots would like it to be. The play was in rehearsal in 1934 when the ban was imposed, one reason probably being that the eponymous heroine (who never appears) is the daughter of a Grand Duke. She has joined the Revolution and is away fighting the Poles — the time is 1920 — but her aristocratic blood would have

rendered her unfit to be a Soviet heroine. Babel's episodic play requires a large cast and has only once before been staged in this country, at the Royal Court in 1967. And by a curious chance, the day after it opens in the Old Vic, with Sylvie Le Touzel, Julie Legrand (left and right, respectively, in the photograph above) and Geoffrey Bayldon playing members of Marya's family, the play will be given its long-delayed premiere in Moscow. *Marya*, Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-726 7616). Previews from Thursday, 7.30pm. Opens April 3 at 7pm. Then Monday to Friday 7.30pm, Saturday 7.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, £7-£17.50.

Jeremy Kingston

CONTINUING

CANT PAY? WONT PAY: Revolting housewives take over the supermarket: Patricia Blair and David Roper lead a revival of Dario Fo's anarchic farce. Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, 27.21.50. Until March 31.

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SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE

Long-anticipated London premiere of Sondheim's 1984 musical inspired by Seurat's painting of a million dots: Philip Quast as George, Maria Friedman as Dot.

National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Underground: Waterloo. Tonight 7.30pm, mats Wed 8.15pm, Sat 2.15pm, Eves 8.20pm, Sat mat 8.15pm, 25. Until March 31.

OUTSIDE LONDON

BELFAST: Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme. First performance in Northern Ireland of Frank McGuinness's intensely moving play set in the weeks, days, minutes before the First World War battle.

Lytton, Ridgeway Street (0222 381081). Preview tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Thurs., 8pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm. Until May 5.

BRADFORD: Jubilee! Bill Owen and Constance Chapman in touring production of David Storey's play, first seen at the NT, where it earned a Tony nomination.

Albion, Morley Street (0274 250000). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 8pm. Sat eve 8.30pm-22.50, mats 25-21.50.

CAVAN: The Winter's Tale (See Whitehaven for comment)

Whitethorn Sports Centre, Pett Wakts (0946 635886). Today and tomorrow 7.30pm, mat today 1.30pm, 27.50, mat 24.50.

YORK: Hencarrowe. Simon Ward and Janet Kay in Ayckbourn's grimly funny play of the future where a composer's needs are served by an all too willing robot.

Theatre Royal, St Leonard's Place (0904 623568). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, 25.50-21.50.

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Whitethorn Sports Centre, Pett

The left tightens grip on TGWU

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs Correspondent

THE LEFT yesterday strengthened its control of Britain's biggest union in spite of allegations that its supporters had been involved in a ballot-rigging scandal which has led to an investigation by the Serious Crime Squad.

Yesterday's result, in the rerun elections for the national executive committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union, confirmed that the union is still in the hands of a controlling body which is opposed to Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, on a number of fundamental issues, particularly defence.

The vote increased the left's domination on the executive from 21-18 to 22-17, causing some Labour MPs to indicate that the result was a warning to Mr Kinnock, himself a TGWU member, that he should not stray too far from the path of "socialism".

The union commands a huge block vote at the Labour Party conference and yesterday's result suggests that Mr Kinnock is still confronted with difficulties in dealing with organised labour.

Mr Eric Heffer, MP for Walton and a former Labour Party chairman, said: "I am delighted with the results of the ballot."

"It clearly means that the rank and file of that trade union have come to the conclusion that what we need is the ending of all anti-trade union legislation by the future Labour government and that workers must have the same rights — indeed increased rights — as they had before."

He added: "Therefore this is a sign to the leadership of the Labour Party that they should now abandon any idea of continuing to support any of the anti-trade union legislation which the Conservatives have brought in."

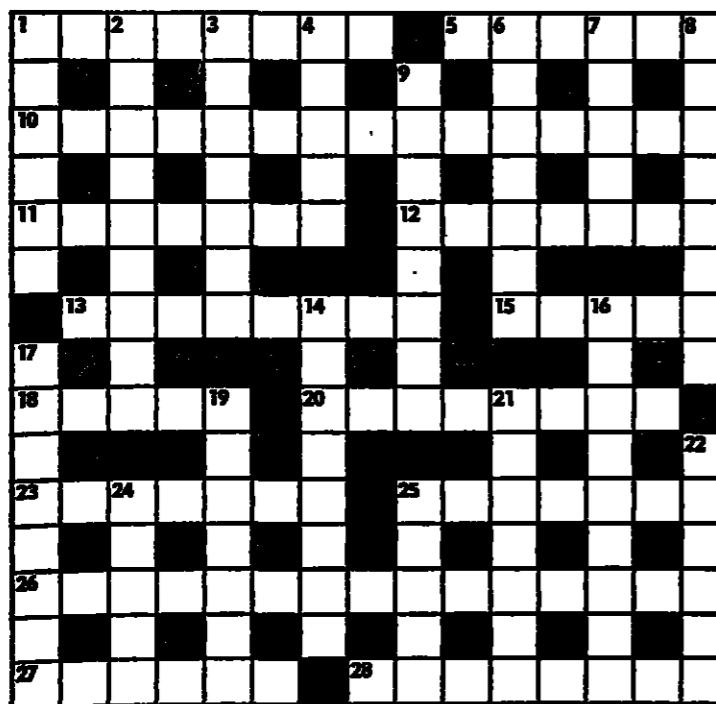
The re-run ballot, which cost the union more than £250,000, was ordered by Mr Ron Todd, union general secretary, when evidence emerged that thousands of stolen election papers had been cast in marginal seats in favour of left-wing candidates.

Mr Todd said yesterday: "I am pleased that this election has been conducted within the scrupulous requirements of both the union and the Electoral Reform Society, who have also acted as scrutineers."

He added: "It is fair to remark that the outcome of the ballot announced today broadly reflects the trends in the first ballot before I suspended it."

The turn out was estimated to be about 20 per cent of the membership of more than 1.25 million.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,252



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

CHEVEN

- a. To cheat at cards
- b. The chub (fish)
- c. The Spanish chestnut

HIMATION

- a. All other garment
- b. Wintering cattle
- c. A metamorphosis

THEOW

- a. The hock-bone
- b. A double ox yoke
- c. A slave

PANDIE

- a. All day long
- b. Join together
- c. To cane

Answers on page 20

New princess honoured by big guns



A 41-gun salute was fired yesterday to mark the birth of the new princess born to the Duke and Duchess of York on Friday. The salute was fired by the Honourable Artillery Company at the Tower of London and by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in Hyde Park at 1pm

Kohl rebukes Thatcher on Polish border issue

From Ian Murray and Gérard Steichen, Bonn

HERR Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, is complaining that he has been misquoted by Mrs Thatcher on the subject of Poland's western frontier.

He let his displeasure be known yesterday through Herr Hans Klein, the Government's spokesman, who also said that Britain's Prime Minister had made "an extraordinary and unwarranted" criticism of West Germany's Constitutional Court.

The Chancellor was stung to retort by an interview with Mrs Thatcher which was published yesterday in *Die Spiegel*, the weekly news magazine, which she gave in advance of the Anglo-German summit in London next Friday.

A source close to Mrs Thatcher made no attempt last night to defuse the tension. "We will not react to the usual government press conference.

During the confidential chat in Strasbourg, Herr Klein said: "no such thing had been said. Mrs Thatcher's quote was wrong. Not only had the Chancellor never said the words, but they did not even convey his meaning.

A second passage in the

cellor's position on the Polish frontier in the course of an after-dinner chat with him at the European summit in Strasbourg last December.

She told the news magazine: "I heard Helmut say: 'I can guarantee nothing. I don't recognize the present borders'."

She added that she knew that Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, felt differently about the issue, and the position had therefore to be resolved.

This part of the interview, which was released in advance, was picked up by other West German papers yesterday and was used to justify stories that, in the words of *Frankfurter Rundschau*: "Thatcher does not trust Kohl."

In the circumstances, Herr Klein was instructed to react at the usual government press conference.

During the confidential chat in Strasbourg, Herr Klein said: "no such thing had been said. Mrs Thatcher's quote was wrong. Not only had the Chancellor never said the words, but they did not even convey his meaning.

A second passage in the

interview had also caused offence, he said. In this Mrs Thatcher had said that the West German Constitutional Court had overturned earlier assurances which had been given about the border.

This "extraordinary and unwarranted" criticism of the highest court of a democratic country, Herr Klein said, was unjustified.

The court had not overturned any treaty obligation. It had merely ruled that a special assurance on the border did not have any legal validity.

Now, however, Herr Klein explained, a process had been started whereby a united Germany would give the same legal guarantees about the border as those which had already been established between West Germany and Poland.

Yesterday's sharp exchange underlines how the question of the Polish border still rankles, with the Chancellor unhappy about the way he was pressed by world opinion to introduce the resolution about it into the Bundestag, and Mrs Thatcher seeking to explain to a German audience why she was seeking to slow down the process of German reunification.

Treasury accused over library

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

THE TREASURY has been accused of renegeing over an agreement to help the British Library with the imminent £10 million relocation of some of its services to Yorkshire, and of "turning turtle" on an unusual decision to let proceeds from a property sale be used.

Last summer, the British Library Board had been told by the Treasury that it could use the proceeds of the sale of its Store Street building in Bloomsbury, London, to fund the relocation programme. The building is expected to be sold for between £8 million and £10 million.

But it emerged last night that in December the board was told that it would only be able to use half of the pro-

ceeds, leaving the Library management angry. "There was no explanation and no reasons were given," said Mr Kenneth Cooper, chief executive of the British Library.

He said: "They have turned turtle on us and it has made a real bundle of our planning.

"Secondly, it means that we have got to use the extra £3 million the Minister for the Arts got for us in the Autumn Statement which was earmarked to repair our acquisitions programme, and bringing our preservation — which includes conservation of books up to date."

Another £2 million is having to come from savings made in shedding leases.

Letter, page 13

Bishop of Oxford disowns Runcie succession

Continued from page 1

they would welcome or not welcome any challenge. You have to acknowledge when you are ordained in the church that you have to look at every challenge given to you and say: Is that what you think God is asking you to do?"

Bishop Harries announced that he intends bringing a legal action against the Church Commissioners, claiming they give insufficient attention to Christian

ethical values in their investment policy. The commissioners based their policy on legal advice that financial return had to be the paramount consideration and Bishop Harries wants a High Court judge to rule that that is a wrong interpretation of the law.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, First Church Estates Commissioner, later maintained there was no such thing and regretted that the church was taking its internal

disagreements to court.

- Dr Eames was Ladbrokes' 2-1 favourite yesterday. The Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford is 5-2 second favourite; the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, is 6-1; the Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, and the Right Rev Mark Souter, Bishop of Birmingham, 8-1; and Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York, is put at 2-1.

Matthew Parris

WEATHER

spread across the rest of Scotland. Clearer, showery conditions will reach Northern Ireland and the extreme west of Scotland by evening. Western England and Wales will start dry but cloud and rain will arrive later. The rest of England and Wales will be dry with some sun. Central and north-eastern England may see some rain later. Outlook: Showery.

ABROAD

AROUND BRITAIN

Rain over Northern Ireland and western Scotland will

be sunny with some showers.

Scorborough

7.00 0.01

7 45

sunny

Humberside

7.00 0.04

7 45

sunny

Orkney

7.00 0.05

7 45

sunny

Shetland

7.00 0.07

7 45

sunny

Wales

7.00 0.08

7 45

sunny

West Country

7.00 0.09

7 45

sunny

England

7.00 0.10

7 45

sunny

Scotland

7.00 0.11

7 45

sunny

Northern Ireland

7.00 0.12

7 45

sunny

London

7.00 0.13

7 45

sunny

Midlands

7.00 0.14

7 45

sunny

North

7.00 0.15

7 45

sunny

Wales

7.00 0.16

7 45

sunny

Scotland

7.00 0.17

7 45

sunny

England

7.00 0.18

7 45

sunny

Wales

7.00 0.19

7 45

sunny

Scotland

7.00 0.20

7 45

sunny

England

7.00 0.21

7 45

sunny

Wales

7.00 0.22

7 45

sunny

Scotland

7.00 0.23

7 45

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

TUESDAY MARCH 27 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6135 (+0.0105)
W German mark
2.7664 (+0.0245)
Exchange index
86.8 (+0.7)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1813.5 (+17.4)
FT-SE 100
2296.2 (+14.3)
USM (Dastream)
142.30 (-0.24)

Market report, page 26

Brent rises to £12.9m

BRENT CHEMICALS' pre-tax profits rose by 15 per cent to £12.9 million in the year to December. Turnover rose by 11 per cent to £87.4 million and earnings per share by 2 per cent to 13.1p.

After a total gain from disposals of £17.5 million, Brent now has net cash of £29 million. The final dividend goes up by 0.65p to 5.4p, leaving the total 13 per cent higher at 6.5p.

Tempus, page 24

TT surges

TT GROUP, managed by a former Harrold acquisitions manager, Mr John Newman, reports pre-tax profits of £2.42 million for the year ended December compared with £3.58 million previously. Turnover rose from £28 million to £60.9 million. A final dividend of 2.5p (2p) makes 4p (3p) for the year.

Tempus, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York:
Dow Jones ... 2721.85 (+17.57)
Tokyo:
Nikkei Av ... 31840.49 (+1468.33)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ... 3014.29 (+39.86)
Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency ... 115.0 (+1.3)
Sydney: AO ... 1557.4 (+0.1)
Frankfurt DAX ... n/a
Brussels:
General ... 6142.06 (+1.10)
Paribas CAC ... 521.52 (+5.52)
Zurich SKA Gen ... 591.2 (-0.3)
London:
FT-A All Share ... 1134.34 (-5.23)
FT- "500" ... 1239.80 (+4.71)
FT Gold Mines ... 273.6 (-21.3)
FT Food interest ... 85.29 (+0.17)
FT Govt Secs ... 76.72 (-0.49)
Recent issues ... Page 26
Closing prices ... Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RIBES:
Barclays ... 560d/p (+11p)
NatWest ... 560d/p (+10p)
Wm Low ... 3019.00 (+10p)
Taverne ... 110p (+10p)
Blacks Leisure ... 72p (+13p)
Conder Group ... 905p (-20p)
Bowers ... 454d/p (+10p)
Channing ... 420p (+10p)
Radiant Metal ... 145p (+12p)
Brocklebank Units ... 57d/p (+10p)
Rutter & Tompkins ... 47p (+10p)
Royal ... 497 1/2p (+15p)
Slate ... 449p (+10p)

FALLS:

SA Breweries ... 550p (-10p)
Liberty ... 425p (-10p)
Lang Property ... 650d/p (-32p)
Britannia ... 567d/p (-24p)
J. Lewis ... 272p (-11p)
Dunlop (London) A ... 452.5p (-15p)
Elys (Wimborne) ... 365p (-10p)
Closing prices ... 28539
SEAS Volume ... 353.3m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15.5%
3-month deposit: 15.5-15.7%
3-month eligible bills: 14.2-14.4%
US Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds: 8.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.84-7.82%
30-year bonds: 100-100.5%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ 1.6135 ... \$ 1.6175
\$ DM2.7664 ... £ 1.7132
\$ FFr 2.4522 ... S. Swf 1.5265
\$ FF 30.3099 ... £ 1.7585
\$ Yen 125.19 ... £ 1.0150
\$ Euro 75.90 ... £ 1.0050
ECU 0.739564 ... SDR 60.80320
£ ECU 1.352148 ... £ SDR 1.336827

GOLD

London Fixing:
Close \$367.50-\$368.50 (£228.00-
229.50)
New York:
Comex \$366.40-366.50*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$16.50bbl (£12.25)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.27	2.12	2.12
Austria Sch	1.25	1.25	1.25
Belgium Fr	1.87	1.87	1.87
Denmark Kr	1.03	1.03	1.03
Finland Ecu	0.72	0.72	0.72
Germany Dm	2.69	2.71	2.71
Greece Dr	2.75	2.75	2.75
Iceland Ic	1.25	1.25	1.25
Ireland P	1.08	1.02	1.02
Italy Lira	2.90	2.80	2.80
Japan Yen	2.95	2.85	2.85
Malta Lira	1.25	1.25	1.25
Norway Kr	11.17	10.51	10.51
Portugal Esc	2.58	2.40	2.40
South Africa Rd	4.42	4.42	4.42
Spain Peseta	125.50	127.20	127.20
Sweden Kr	10.41	9.81	9.81
Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.41	2.41
Turkey Lira	4.80	3.60	3.60
United States Dollar	1.33	1.33	1.33
Venezuela Bol	1.00	1.00	1.00
Yugoslavia Dinar	1.00	1.00	1.00

Notes for small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.2 (February)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Restructure at Isosceles as sale talks fail

By Gillian Bowditch

ISOSCELES, the company that made the debt-financed £2 billion bid for Gateway, the supermarket group, last summer, needs to restructure its finances to avoid breaching an important covenant.

The restructuring follows an announcement that talks between Isosceles and Wm Low, the Scottish supermarket group, for Low to buy 81 of Gateway's northern stores for £12 million, have fallen through.

The deal collapsed on Friday evening, and Mr David Smith, Isosceles' chief executive, flew to the US the same night to talk to Wasserstein Perella and Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, the US shareholders who hold 40 per cent of the company.

The restructuring is likely to take the form of a subscription for new equity from existing shareholders, although other schemes are being considered.

The possibility of an immediate flotation was considered but ruled out.

Speaking from the US, Mr Smith said Isosceles intended to keep and run the northern stores and had no immediate plans to sell Hermans, the US sportswear retailer.

This means Isosceles is about £300 million bigger than had been assumed under the original financing plans and the covenant on interest cover is in danger of being broken.

Mr Smith said: "We are

looking to re-jig the equity element of our financing before the end of the year. We could go for a much earlier flotation than planned but at present we're looking to do it within our own equity group."

He said the banks financing the £1.3 billion of debt and the shareholders speaking for £200 million of equity backed the company's decision to pull out of talks with Low. "They all agree that we should not do a deal which undervalues any part of our business."

Mr Smith said the deal with Low fell through for two main reasons. Isosceles did not know of Low's plans to sell on 30 per cent of the stores to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for about £30 million when it reached an agreement with Low in February.

In addition, he said, Low was not prepared to buy additional warehouses and developments which were to be valued separately.

Mr Smith said an equity injection of about £50 million would be enough to prevent the interest cover covenant being broken but Isosceles is likely to raise more than that from shareholders.

It plans a flotation in several years' time and Mr Smith said raising more equity this year would be a stepping stone in that direction. It would mean that the group would be able to float at a more manageable size.

A spokesman for SG Warburg, Isosceles' merchant

bank, stressed that the banks were pleased with the way the group was trading and that there was no pressure to restructure the business. But the group could unveil a new package in July when it announces its results for the year to April.

He said the next tranche of debt to be repaid is £730 million, due in August 1992. It is conceivable Isosceles could have floated by then. The interest payable on the £200 million of debt, which the group will have to pay as a result of not selling the stores, can be met from the £36 million generated annually by them.

The breakdown in negotiations came as a disappointment to Mr James Millar, chairman of Low. He does not believe the deal will be resumed. "We had an agreement to buy the stores at £212 million and we shook hands on that. The deal with CWS had to reach a certain stage before we could inform Isosceles," he said.

Low intended to finance its £150 million of the deal with a £60 million rights issue and £90 million of borrowings. Low's shares rose 12p to 302p yesterday.

But Mr David Skinner, the CWS's deputy chief executive retail and services, says he is hopeful an agreement may eventually be reached. CWS is negotiating to buy around half a dozen of Gateway's superstores separate to the deal it was pursuing with Low.

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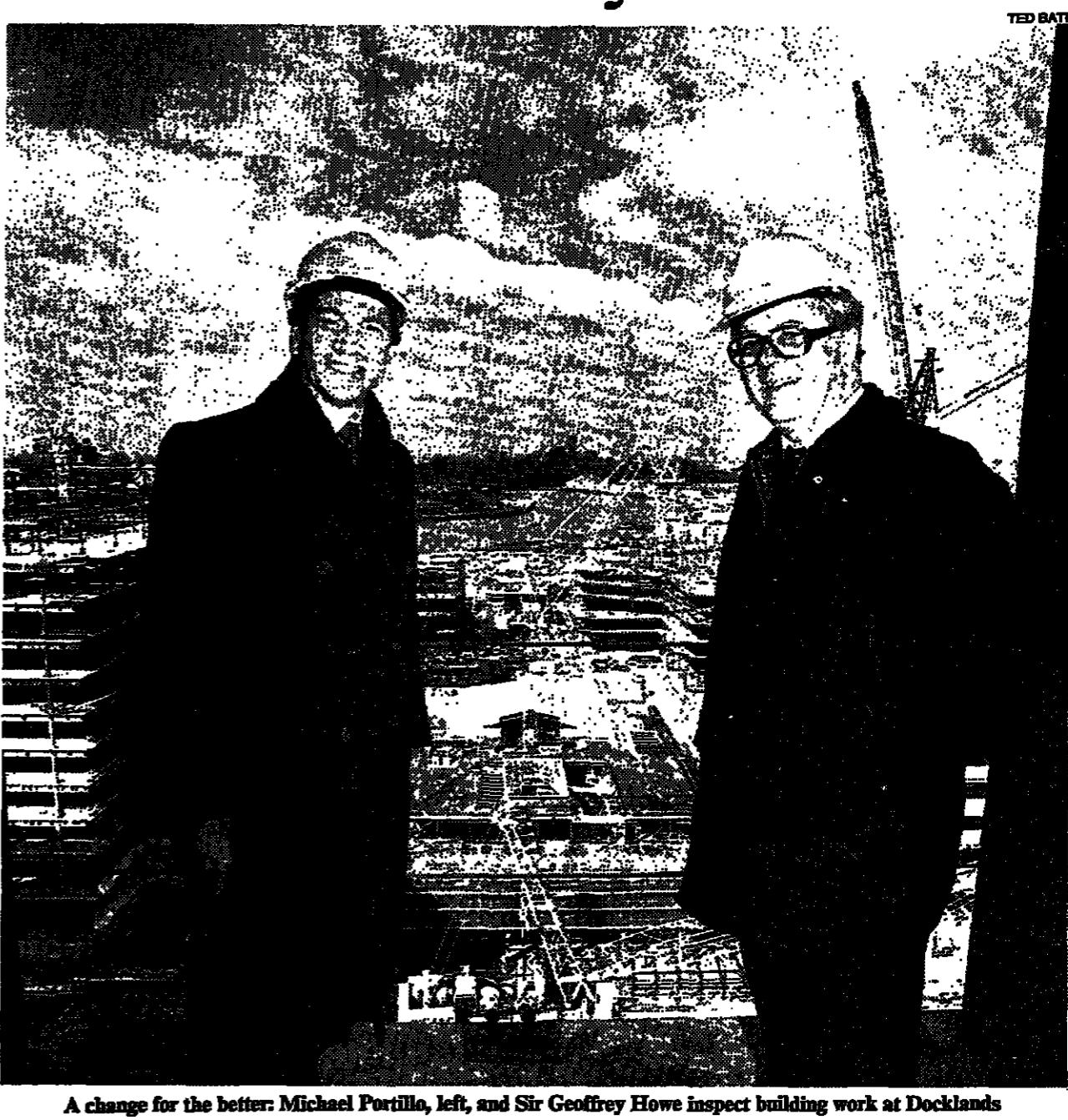
He said he was amazed at the transformation of Docklands.

"When I announced the Enterprise Zone scheme in 1980, the Isle of Dogs was a scene of dereliction. Today, the contrast is almost beyond belief."

He was sure the whole of Docklands would be a success.

"The Enterprise Zone proved to be a

Howe amazed by Docklands



A change for the better: Michael Portillo, left, and Sir Geoffrey Howe inspect building work at Docklands

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Deputy Prime Minister, went to Canary Wharf to see for himself how the development of London's Docklands is progressing.

Sir Geoffrey toured the Isle of Dogs Enterprise Zone with Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State for Transport, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the announcement of Enterprise Zones.

He said he was amazed at the crucial spark plug for that regeneration. It attracted capital, resources and talent, unlocking an imagination and vitality which had long deserted the empty piers of the West India and Millwall Docks.

"That economic renaissance has brought new jobs, new homes and new opportunities for improving the local environment."

Pound up on demand from Middle East

THE POUND recovered sharply on strong commercial buying from the Middle East, closing up 0.7 in terms of the Bank of England's effective rate index at 86.8.

Shares strengthened with the currency helping the FTSE 100 up 14.3 to 2,298.2.

Interest rates eased in the money market as sterling firmed and the three-month interbank rate finished 9/16 lower at about 15% per cent.

International expansion would be one of the prime

aims of a merger. Mr Robert Hazelhoff, ABN's chairman, said: "A merger would put us among the top banks and allow us to expand rapidly."

Mr Roelof Nelissen, Amro's chairman, said: "We need a merger to achieve our aims. Partial co-operation would not be enough."

Mr Andre Mulder, a banking analyst for Barclays de Zoete Wedd in Amsterdam, welcomed the merger, saying it would combine ABN's international banking presence with Amro's strong corporate operations.

Markets, page 26

Dutch banks seek merger

By Neil Bennett

HOLLAND'S two largest banks, Amsterdam-Rotterdam and Algemene Bank Nederland, are negotiating a £3 billion merger which would create Europe's seventh largest bank.

The banks stunned the Dutch financial markets yesterday by announcing they were "investigating the possibilities of a full co-operation."

They then suspended their shares.

A merged bank would have total assets of Dfl352 billion

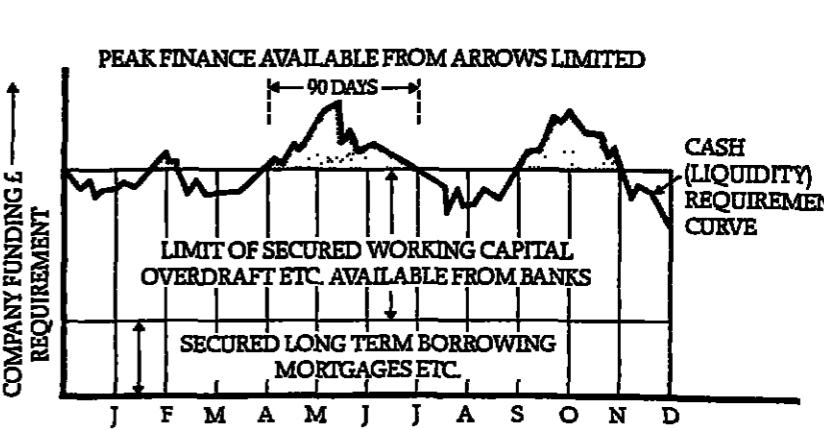
(£114 billion). This would make it the sixth largest in continental Europe, and the 20th in the world, similar in size to Crédit Lyonnais in France but still smaller than Barclays or National Westminster Bank. In 1989 the banks had combined net profits of £470 million, and are valued at £3.07 billion on the Amsterdam stock exchange.

Mr Onno Rieding, Holland's former finance minister, has been named as a possible candidate to run the bank.

International expansion would be one of the prime

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Playboy in European joint venture talks

PLAYBOY Enterprises Inc of the US is negotiating a joint venture with an unidentified European publisher and planning a share issue, Miss Christie Heiner, Playboy's chief executive, said in Italy. She declined to comment on speculation that talks were with the West German media and publishing group Bertelsmann, but said Playboy was looking for television for growth and might consider collaborating with the Italian media entrepreneur Signor Silvio Berlusconi.

A new issue of Playboy shares on Wall Street was being considered. Miss Heiner's father, Mr Hugh Heiner, who founded Playboy magazine, owns 70 per cent of Playboy Enterprises.

Insurance broker ahead

PRE-TAX profits at Lloyd Thompson Group, the Lloyd's insurance and re-insurance broker, were ahead by 40 per cent to £4.03 million in the six months to end-December. Income from brokerage increased by 37 per cent to £9.59 million in the period. Fully diluted earnings per share improved by 32 per cent to 7.9p and the interim dividend advanced by 21 per cent to 2.3p.

EBC housing setback

EBC, the South-west building contractor, sold only 40 houses in 1989 compared with 120 in 1988, halving profits at the housing division. However, buoyant profits from contracting and a doubled contribution from commercial property development helped lift pre-tax profits in the year to December to £5.3 million, a 43 per cent increase on 1988.

At £1.2 million, the contribution from the property maintenance division came close to matching the £1.3 million from contracting. A final dividend of 4.5p a share is being paid, giving a total of 8p a share (6.75p). Mr David Stoneman, the chairman, said: "Good order books for a number of our building companies make us confident about the prospects for the current year."

Mayoh leaves P-E payout Epwin Group rises 24%

MR JOHN MAYOH, joint managing director of Epwin Group, the window maker, has resigned to pursue other interests. He has undertaken not to sell his 18 per cent stake for at least a year. Epwin raised pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £0.5 million during 1989 on turnover of £43.9 million (£34.8 million). The total dividend rises to 6p (5.3p) through a proposed final of 4.2p on earnings of 14.1p (11.3p).

Sale boosts Ossory

THE SALE of an 11-acre site in Mordake, south-west London, accounts for much of the turnover in the interim results from Ossory Estates, the property developer. The site was sold in December for £20 million to investors trading as Peachstream Properties. The sale fell within Ossory's first half and lifted total turnover in the six months to December to £27.3 million. Pre-tax profits were up 49 per cent at £6.58 million despite a doubled interest charge of £1.3 million.

Ossory has since acquired a 47.5 per cent stake in Peachstream, which plans a 184,000 sq ft office building on the site. Ossory will project manage the scheme on a fee basis.

An interim dividend of 0.4p a share (0.3p) is being paid.

Discount winner transforms B&J

ALISTAIR GRANT



TWO SUBSTANTIAL equity offerings in just over a year are rich even for a fast-growing company like Brown & Jackson. Such hyperactivity is bound to raise memories of B&J's last spell of torrid growth, when the shares reached dizzy 28p before sagging to 11p.

That said, B&J looks to have a winner with Poundstretcher, the discount non-food retail chain bought from Lowndes Queensway. Management style is to pile it high and sell it cheap. There is mileage in selling men's white cotton shirts at £3.99. If Poundstretcher proves to be a formula business with staying power, then the original purchase was indeed a great opportunity, and the latest deal to add a further 53 Lowndes sites is a logical extension.

Poundstretcher turned in 13 per cent like-for-like sales growth, which translates to 25 per cent profits growth. The first months of the current year show a distinct acceleration.

The deal stretched B&J's balance sheet, but transformed its profitability. At pre-tax level, the gain was 32 per cent to £5.53 million with earnings per share 70 per cent ahead. Regrettably, the fact that £2 million of the profits arose from property disposals was not apparent immediately, though the company would say that with more than 200 outlets, this will be a recurring

source of income. Dividends rose 200 per cent to 1.7p.

B&J is paying £1.6 million for the 10- to 15-year leasehold properties from Lowndes yet is raising £32 million from a placing of straight shares and convertible preference stock.

The all-in cost of refurbishing the new outlets and restocking is more like £1.2 million.

That leaves headroom for bank debt reduction and a modest war chest for further site acquisitions.

The size of the issue takes a good deal on trust. But it is effectively placed with a claw-back provision for existing shareholders, thus denying current holders a chance to sell their rights. The shares are being offered at a modest 58p, representing about 9 times earnings after allowing for full dilution and some property profits. Speculative, but interesting.

Brent Chemicals

THE BIG question for Brent Chemicals shareholders lies in the group's plans for spending its considerable cash hoard.

The sale of Reddish Se-



Eyes on Europe: Steve Cuthbert, of Brent Chemicals, yesterday

Indeed, £29 million of Brent's £41 million net assets are not cash, which works out at about 54p per share.

Brent clearly plans to make further acquisitions and hints that these will be of owner-managed businesses in Europe, where its expansion is to be focused. However, there is a risk it will make a rash move to reduce its current acute vulnerability to predators.

Any purchases are likely to be aimed at boosting interests in aerospace and electronics chemicals. These businesses are already much more international than the ones just sold, where sales were mainly in the UK.

The latest figures reported by Mr Steve Cuthbert, the chief executive, were not particularly impressive, nor any great surprise. Although

pre-tax profits were 15 per cent up at £12.9 million in the year to December, the first full dividend on the £12 million of preference shares issued in August 1988 left earnings per share just 2 per cent up at 13.1p.

Earnings had grown only 2 per cent in the first half and the full-year totals were only slightly higher than Brent forecast earlier this month, when it announced the disposal of Reddish Seville.

Analysts expect some recovery in Brent's fortunes this year, taking profits to £14 million and earnings to about 14p and leaving the shares, up 4p at 144p, on a prospective p/e ratio of 10. That is high on trading grounds, even though there is a 6.3 per cent yield. However, Brent has a number of businesses of gem-like quality and, netting the cash pile off its market value, these could seem sufficiently cheap for an industry buyer to launch a bid.

TT Group

TT GROUP is fast settling into its stride, which is no less than was expected after a 1987 revitalisation in which Mr John Newman, former acquisitions manager at Hanson, and Mr Nicholas Shipp, former stockbroker, moved into the executive seats.

Pre-tax profits of TT (formerly Tyzack Turner) rose by 135 per cent from £3.58 million to £5.42 million (£28 million) turnover in the year ended December 30. Pre-tax margins advanced by one percentage point to 13.8 per cent.

The final dividend rises from 2p to 2.5p a share, making 4p (3p) for the year.

The profits advance owes something to a full year's contribution from Beaton Clark, acquired in August 1988, the benefit of eight months' profit after the May 1989 acquisition of Newship Manufacturing, and to organic growth.

Improved productivity was squeezed out of Beaton.

The Hanson experience and lessons of financial control helped TT Group end the year with gross bank borrowings of £3.3 million and cash in hand of £1.7 million, giving a gearing of a mere 4.4 per cent.

The balance sheet is therefore poised for the next move on the acquisition trail, though not, it seems, Chloride's way. Having built a 2.85 per cent stake in Chloride, TT has recently sold the rump of its holding. However, after interest costs, TT may not have made much of a turn out of the exercise.

Pre-tax profits could challenge the £11 million mark this year, and at 117p, up 4p, the shares trade on 8.1 times.

The Newman-Shipp team holds 32 per cent of TT's equity, and there is a respectable institutional following. The shares are looking cheap.

Clearing time cut by Abbey

By Lindsay Cook
Family Money Editor

ABBEY NATIONAL has taken another step towards becoming a fully fledged clearing bank. It has reduced the time it takes to clear cheques from seven calendar days to four working days for its two cheque accounts. The high street banks quote three to four days to clear cheques and advise customers not to write cheques until they have balances to cover them.

Under the new system, a cheque paid into an Abbey branch on a Monday will be available on Friday.

The Abbey, which suffered substantial losses through a student cheque fraud in the Eighties, had maintained its seven-day clearing when it launched its cheque accounts two years ago.

Japanese firms favour UK

JAPANESE companies have increased their presence in Europe ahead of the single market in 1992 with Britain and France the favoured destinations, a survey by Jetro, the semi-official Japan External Trade Organisation shows.

At end-January, there were 529 companies with Japanese investment of at least 10 per cent, up from 411 a year earlier, in the 18 countries of the EC and the European Free Trade Association.

These included 132 in Britain, 95 in France, 89 in West Germany, 55 in Spain, 39 in the Netherlands and 28 in Italy. By sector, 139 produce electronic and electrical equipment or parts, 83 chemicals and 66 general machinery.

The average local content of parts and materials rose from 51.2 to 67.2 per cent.

Legal wrangles risk souring economic ties, says Brittan

EC trade treaty with US urged

From Peter Guilford
Brussels

The United States and the European Community need a joint treaty to prevent "unseemly and damaging disputes" over industrial jurisdiction from escalating out of proportion, Sir Leon Brittan, EC Commissioner for Competition Policy, said in New York yesterday.

Sir Leon defended the EC's increasingly powerful competition-enforcement rules, but gave warning that they could bring it into conflict with the US. "We cannot avoid the possibility of conflicts of jurisdiction, with both the United States and the European Community claiming jurisdiction in the same areas," he said.

The world's two biggest trading blocs should sign "a treaty or less formal agreement", as no procedure currently exists for settling disputes between them, he continued. Such an agreement would provide for information gathering and exchange,

and would set a framework for consultation, in order to preempt the growing number of legal wrangles that risk souring economic ties.

The move could help allay fears that Brussels will use its growing anti-trust muscle beyond Community frontiers, and vice-versa. America was jolted by a European Court of Justice ruling last year which confirmed Brussels had the right to confiscate assets of non-EC companies if they were found to be involved in price cartels on the European market.

Speaking to the EC Chamber of Commerce in New York, Sir Leon admitted that an arbitration clause would meet formidable political obstacles. He was looking for a first nod of approval from the American authorities, but he vowed to pursue his plans irrespective of how they were initially received.

"Many mergers of American and other international companies will come under the new EC regulation, and there is clearly bound to be a certain overlap of interest between the Community and the United States," he said.

GrandMet seeks new retail business for franchising side

From Martin Waller, Farmington, Connecticut

GRAND METROPOLITAN is seeking a new retail business to add to its franchise-based operations, which include the Burger King hamburger chain.

However, the drinks group — showing a party of London analysts round its US businesses this week — is keen not to be seen as being in acquisition mode.

It has stressed that any retail expansion would not involve a massive cash outlay — it may even choose to start a new business from scratch.

The company also stressed its commitment to Pearle, which operates retail spectacles business in the US, which has been seen in some quarters as sitting oddly

with GrandMet's core activities. Some analysts have suggested it might be sold.

Mr David Tagg, the main board director in charge of retail and property, said there was no question of selling or floating Pearle, which expects to double sales from a forecast \$750 million in 1990 over the next three years.

He said the intention was to build the retail side further by bolting on another retail area which would be run along the same franchise lines as Burger King and Pearle. Mr Tagg said the new retail area could well be just as different as spectacles and burgers.

The spectacles business will

need another \$300 million to \$450 million in annual sales, or between 200 and 300 stores, before it reaches the necessary critical mass in the US market over the next four or five years.

But Pearle is keen to expand into Europe. It has a toehold in the Netherlands and will open its first store in West Germany soon. Britain has been ruled out because of the retail slump which coincided with a downturn in spectacles sales after the Government withdrew free sight-testing last year. The first store in Taiwan is likely to open later this year. Asia and the Chinese market are seen as priorities.

Ramar Textiles plc

MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF LADIESWEAR

Unaudited Interim Results

	Half year to 24/11/89	Half year to 25/11/88	Year to 26/5/89
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	12,085	13,768	24,682
Profit (Loss) before tax	(252)	426	837
Tax (Charge) credit	88	(157)	(323)
Profit (Loss) after tax	(164)	269	514
Earnings (Loss) per share	(1.29p)	2.12p	4.06p

- Company carrying record stockholdings of presold stock. UK factories producing at record levels with order books full through into the Autumn.
- Presold production running at a rate of £600,000 per week since the beginning of 1990. A sales increase in the order of 20% anticipated for calendar year.
- High interest rates, delay in settlement of consequential loss claim, expanding production & high stock levels all contributed to interest charges in excess of £525,000.
- Supply difficulties and uncertainties in China resulted in lost sales of around £2 million in silk garments in the first half. However, these problems have been overcome and as silk now has a much wider public appeal I anticipate our long term investment will create profits in the ensuing years.
- I am confident of the satisfactory outcome of arbitration at the end of April and very much regret the detrimental effect on the recovery and expansion of the Group caused by unwarranted delays in settlement by the insurers.

Colin Radin, Chairman

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'No changes' at Wang after founder's death

By Melinda Wittstock

WALL STREET has ruled out any changes in the management or ownership of Wang Laboratories, the loss-making US minicomputer manufacturer whose founder, Dr An Wang, aged 70, died on Saturday.

It was reportedly "business as usual" at the company in Lowell, Massachusetts, with no signs of the boardroom struggle that, more often than not, follows the death of a family-controlled company's founder.

Wall Street analysts and corporate financiers said there is little likelihood that Wang, which reported a \$424.3 million loss on sales of \$2.87 billion in the year to end-June, will be taken over for some time.

Mr Marc Schulman, a computer industry analyst with UBS Securities in New York, said: "No one is interested. It's like climbing into a ship with a hole in the bottom. When that has finally been plugged, maybe someone will be interested."

Mr George Elling, a computer industry analyst with Merrill Lynch in New York, said: "Even if the family did decide it wanted to sell out, it is highly questionable who would want to buy it now."

With the shares languishing at just \$6 yesterday, down

from a \$42.50 high in 1984, it is highly unlikely the Wang family could be persuaded to sell out.

Mr Frederick Wang, who resigned as president and chief operating officer to make way last August for Mr Richard Miller, a former executive of General Electric, confirmed that the family will continue to back Mr Miller's restructuring programme while maintaining its controlling stake.

The Wang family, together with directors and top managers, controls 82.8 per cent of the company's publicly quoted Class C voting stock and 22.9 per cent of the quoted non-voting Class B

shares. In a statement, Mr Wang said: "The Wang family believes the long-term plan now being implemented to return the company to profitability will achieve its objectives, and that implementation of the plan remains the best means through which to maximize stockholders' value in the company."

Wang, which pioneered electronic calculators, user-friendly word processors and small business computers, first ran into trouble when it chose to ignore the arrival of the IBM personal computer.

It has been hit by the worldwide slump in computer sales.



Peter Tom: reporting a difficult year, but confident about future progress

Bardon produces £12m

BARDON GROUP, the quarrying and building products group, reports pre-tax profits of £12.1 million on sales of £98.5 million in the nine months to the end of December, against £12.9 million for the year to end-March 1989, on turnover of £165.7 million (Philip Pangalo writes).

Ramar loss
RAMAR TEXTILES plunged to a loss of £164,000 at the interim stage to November compared with pre-tax profits of £426,000 last time. Again there is no interim dividend on a loss per share of 1.29p (eps 2.12p).

Minorco wins
MINORCO HAS secured 98 per cent of Freeport-McMoRan Gold of the US following its offer.

Peter Tom, the chairman, said conditions had been difficult on both sides of the Atlantic, stemming from high British interest rates, increased raw material costs and the economic uncertainty in Massachusetts. But he remained confident about medium-to-long-term progress.

British turnover was 85 per cent of that in the previous year, with profits reaching 98 per cent.

Mr Tom said the market for quarry materials was particularly tight. Profit margins at the building products division, which had static turnover, were reduced due to a

shortfall in the concrete company, affected by rising cement prices and lower demand.

Mr Tom said the American operations, which account for 28 per cent of group profits and 47 per cent of turnover, produced lower results than expected due to adverse climatic and economic conditions.

Interest costs were reduced from £5.37 million to £3.75 million, with gearing down from 129 per cent to 59 per cent. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of £13.5 million for 1990. The shares firmed by 1p to 162p.

CCF in talks on funds manager

By Jeremy Andrews

CREDIT COMMERCIAL de France, the country's ninth largest bank, is in negotiations with Throgmorton Trust about buying Framlington, Throgmorton's fund-management subsidiary.

However, Mr Anthony Greayer, CCF's chief executive in Britain, denied that his bank's interest was connected with the rows at Framlington which have led to a number of resignations in recent months.

Although CCF has an extensive branch network in France and 30 other countries, half the bank's profits come from its investment banking and fund-management businesses. It has \$13 billion under management, most of which is money market funds within Europe.

A fortnight ago, it announced its intention to acquire a fund manager in London to form the nucleus of an international fund-management operation.

Framlington was set up 21 years ago to manage unit trusts by Laurence Prust, the stockbroker, who floated it on the stock market in 1983. Laurence Prust's institutional broking business was acquired by CCF in 1985 and the private client business was merged with Framlington in return for a 26.8 per cent stake.

Meanwhile, Throgmorton Trust, an investment trust, had acquired a 15 per cent holding in Framlington in return for its fund-management side.

After the stock market crash, Throgmorton launched a £70 million bid for Framlington on the back of the two stakes.

Although successful, the bid was acrimonious and was followed by the departure of several senior figures at Framlington.

Mr Greayer emphasized that CCF was in discussions with possible vendors of a number of fund-management groups.

In November, Framlington had more than £2.4 billion under management.

Throgmorton's latest accounts show Framlington made profits of £10.67 million before tax in the 12 months to November, compared to £6.47 million in the previous 17 months. Mr Paul Loach, the managing director, said annual fees had risen by 44 per cent since June 1987, compared with a 26 per cent rise in gross revenues.

COMMENT

A princely penny for Laing's revaluation

The sparkling property revaluation from Laing Properties at the end of last week brought a pretty humdrum response in the stock market at the start of the new account yesterday. In theory, this is the account when Pall Mall, the joint Peninsular & Oriental/Chefsfield bid vehicle, is most likely to raise its takeover offer. Last week, Laing produced a revaluation of 910p a share, with a further development surplus, if all goes according to plan, of 73p a share.

Yet the Laing Properties' share price slumped all the way down from 683p to 651p, a princely penny above the 650p-a-share cash on offer from Pall Mall.

The movement gave off two conflicting signals: either that the bid will fail and that the 651p reached last night is merely a staging post in the shares' journey back to the 450p they might command without a bid at all, or that the offer will succeed after a slight raising of the price. But there is another, clearer, signal in that property valuations produced in the middle of bid battles are given limited credibility by the market.

In the case of Laing Properties, the weak spot is the United States portfolio. Nearly 30 per cent of the portfolio value is locked up in the US, nearly all of that in developments under way and in sites. US developments are valued at £120 million, but require a further £104 million to complete and let them. According to the valuers, the aggregate value of those developments when completed would be £156 million, or £8 million less than the current value

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plus the costs to come. It is only when the properties are both completed and let that the full latent value comes out and the valuation crosses past the present worth to £254 million.

The US real estate market is, if not in tatters, looking decidedly threadbare. In New York, as can be seen by the Berisford write-offs, the market is in a severe cyclical downswing while in many other states values are being knocked for six by the crisis in the savings and loans industry which has dumped billions of dollars of real estate onto the market.

Most of this would have been built into the valuations by the US appraisers and this is no doubt why it is costing more to acquire and complete the US property portfolio than it will be worth on completion without lettings. But in addition to the portfolio under development, there is a bundle of sites where development is not yet underway. Their valuation, which appears to be included in Laing's package at £116 million, is even more difficult than valuing developments in progress, given that the site value is a residual of a series of calculations which begin with the estimated completed value and make deductions for the costs of getting from vacant lot to finished building.

Pall Mall has the rest of the week to decide whether or not to increase the offer. If it wishes to be sure of winning, it needs to raise the terms. But given the uncertain state of the US market and the declining Laing price, it need not add much to clinch it. Cash, after all, is king.

Sydney needs a real remedy

DOWN UNDER, there is a dark spirit substitute called Claytons marketed by luminaries such as Paul Hogan as "the drink you have when you're not having a drink". The term was extended to the political arena at the weekend when Australia had a Claytons election. There was a vote but no outcome and the tip is that there will either be a hung parliament or a return of the Labor Government led by Prime Minister Bob Hawke with a majority of two seats. Political survival will depend on Labor MPs refusing to die and resisting the temptation to resign.

Whatever the outcome, such a slim margin for error is bad news for Australia's already battered share market. Foreign investors, who re-embraced bluechip Aussie shares in the New Year, look stuck for a while and uncertainty will not encourage more investment.

Aggressive and constructive change in economic policy will take a back seat as both sides jockey for position, and economists will continue to say Australia is a nation with first-world living standards based on a third-world trade profile.

Both the Labor Party and the

conservative Liberal Party have said they want to see interest rates of almost 20 per cent fall soon and that is bad news for the Australian dollar, which already has tumbled half a cent to US74.5 cents since polling day.

Longer term, a lower dollar — at least 10 per cent lower — is good news for the country's resources companies, which will produce higher profits after the currency translation. Indeed, base-metal companies such as BHP, CRA and Renison Goldfields are the true drinks in a parched market. Buoyant demand, aided for example by the needs of Eastern Europe, should see that even though gold stocks will be hit by the precious metal's US\$60 fall over the past month.

Australia's key market indicator, the All Ordinaries Index, eased 7 points to 1,567.4 on Monday based on paltry turnover of Aus\$90 million. Investors are walking out eggshells in what was already a subdued market. To inspire confidence offshore Australia must junk the Claytons and bring out the real medicine.

David Brewerton

Panfida blames high rates for loss

By Our City Staff

PANFIDA, the Australian-controlled retail and property company that operates the 850-strong Martins chain of newsagent and convenience stores in Britain, has fallen into a £7.1 million pre-tax loss for the six months to end-December.

The company blamed the loss — down from last year's £561,000 interim pre-tax profit — on high British interest rates and the resulting downturn in consumer spending.

Panfida paid £13.5 million

interest during the period, on borrowings down from £245 million last June to a current £200 million, while the Martin Retail Group (MRG) reported an after-tax loss of £12.7 million before June 30.

The company reported a loss per share of 8.3p compared with earnings per share of 4.2p last time. There is no interim dividend payout to shareholders, who received 0.5p last time.

Panfida also announced it had granted Meldrew, the pri-

result of the recent sale of Munford, its other US convenience store chain. Last month, Panfida paid £8.2 million for the 47 per cent of MRG it did not already own.

As part of the same deal, it is raising £10 million through the sale of up to 31.3 per cent of its shares to News International, the publisher of *The Times*, at 35p a share. News International will have voting rights on 29.9 per cent of the shares.

Panfida fell 4p to 16p.

ConsGold and the snakepit

RTZ AND Minorco would have been the joint bidders for British mining house Consolidated Gold Fields in the summer of 1986 had a take-over and break-up plan, conceived by American investment bank Merrill Lynch, materialized. A book by Bill Jamieson, a City journalist, to be published by Hutchinson Business Books on April 5, on the battle for ConsGold — *Goldstrike! The Oppenheimer Empire in Crisis* — reveals that the code name used by RTZ and Minorco for the scheme was "Operation Snakepit," because each would take various parts of ConsGold once "the victim was in the pit." The RTZ-Minorco plan came to nought, and eventually Minorco took on ConsGold in its own right only to lose out to Hanson. The original plan was that RTZ would have taken the aggregates business, ARC, since it was not interested in sitting on minority shareholdings with no cash flow. One other interesting bid battle snippet, also revealed in *Goldstrike!*, is a description of Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold's chairman, who regularly sought relaxation by taking his labrador dog, Augusta, for long walks. Concluding that Augusta must have become a very wise dog indeed during the course of Britain's biggest take-over, Jamieson quotes Agnew as saying: "I tell Augusta everything. We have long discussions. The Take-over Panel would not at all approve."

ICI outsider

FOR THE first time in 43 years, ICI has appointed a finance director from outside the firm. Colin Short, aged 56, a long-time oilman, has been poached from Chevron, where he has been the company treasurer based in San Fran-

cisco. Before that, born in Carmarthen, was a key member of the defence team which saw off a T Boone Pickens takeover bid for Gulf Oil in 1983, when Short was chief financial officer. The friendly merger between Gulf and Chevron came later. Moving to London in June, Short will take over from Alan Clements when he reaches retirement age at the end of the year.

Egg on. At THE birthday party for the 1,000th issue of James Capel's *Mining Review* yesterday, one fund manager who should perhaps remain nameless gave Julian Baring, the firm's gold guru, a Cadbury's Creme Egg. My man on the scene wanted to know: "Why such a small Easter egg?" "Because it is all mushy inside — just like some of the recommendations that Julian has given us down the years," quipped the jovial client.

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

On a good day . . .

RUGBY-PLAYING Toss O'Reilly, the chairman of Heinz, has become a legend in his own lifetime in Irish sporting circles. Tales about him abound. An informant, hot-foot from Saturday's international match in Dublin, tells me that he overheard talk of the time O'Reilly visited the headmaster of Clongowes Wood, a fine boarding school a few miles west of the Irish capital, where he was the joint bidders for British mining house Consolidated Gold Fields in the summer of 1986 had a take-over and break-up plan, conceived by American investment bank Merrill Lynch, materialized. A book by Bill Jamieson, a City journalist, to be published by Hutchinson Business Books on April 5, on the battle for ConsGold — *Goldstrike! The Oppenheimer Empire in Crisis* — reveals that the code name used by RTZ and Minorco for the scheme was "Operation Snakepit," because each would take various parts of ConsGold once "the victim was in the pit." The RTZ-Minorco plan came to nought, and eventually Minorco took on ConsGold in its own right only to lose out to Hanson. The original plan was that RTZ would have taken the aggregates business, ARC, since it was not interested in sitting on minority shareholdings with no cash flow. One other interesting bid battle snippet, also revealed in *Goldstrike!*, is a description of Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold's chairman, who regularly sought relaxation by taking his labrador dog, Augusta, for long walks. Concluding that Augusta must have become a very wise dog indeed during the course of Britain's biggest take-over, Jamieson quotes Agnew as saying: "I tell Augusta everything. We have long discussions. The Take-over Panel would not at all approve."

NIKKEI
"Who's taking the nikkei?"

Sunken dreams

BRITAIN'S highest-paid businessman, property developer Paul Sykes — he pays himself £6 million a year — may yet rue the day that he bought his North Yorkshire home from Neil Balfour, chairman of Yorke Trust, the quoted financial services group. Sykes bought the Studley Royal stables, complete with country mansion and situated in the deer park at Fountains Abbey — the National Trust site which also houses the ruins of what was once Britain's foremost Cistercian abbey — for £1 million. Now he is spending an equally large sum renovating the property before moving in. But his desire to create a sunken garden next to the stables has run up against a problem — in the form of Harrogate Borough Council, which will consider his application on April 10. According to local sources, the signs are not good. An archaeological dig on the site ear-marked for the sunken garden is unearthing important remains, not least those of a 15th century village and the old road from Ripon to Pateley Bridge. All this must be decided before Sykes' repurchase for the £20,000 10-week excavation.

Carol Leonard



Will your company pension live up to expectations?

The most a company pension can give you is two-thirds final salary. Few get it.

Unless you work continuously for forty years with one employer your chances are pretty slim. And there will be no overtime. Or bonuses. Or perks, such as a company car.

Just a cut in your basic salary. With inflation gnawing away at it all the time.

So what can you do?

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

INFLESTER/ENTRUSTISTS

THE LAW

Cutting out the legal jargon

Sandwiched between the Budget and the mid-Staffordshire by-election, the launch last week of TransAction, the Law Society's National Conveyancing Protocol Scheme, lacked the good timing necessary to achieve maximum publicity and impact. To compound the embarrassment, some rank-and-file solicitors are unhappy that the society failed to deliver its information to them on schedule.

"In terms of publicity, it has left a lot to be desired," says one solicitor. "What does the Law Society think it is playing at? Its performance over the launch of the scheme could not have been worse."

But while the society is winning few plaudits for its publicity skills, its rating on the the scheme itself is high. Solicitors up and down the country's high streets are applauding TransAction as an important step in improving the efficiency of the service they give to the public.

Stephen Gold, solicitor and author of *Gold's Law*, and a popularizer of legal issues, says: "I welcome TransAction as a way of cutting through the mystique which has surrounded conveyancing for far too long."

Just as important, Mr Gold says, is that the spirit of simplicity and efficiency should be carried through

Edward Fennell
explains how the
Law Society's new
TransAction scheme
should simplify
conveyancing

to lawyers' other communications with clients. "We should be missing a great opportunity if we failed to translate our correspondence into plain English. We must have consistency between the contract and the solicitors' letters."

Karen Coway, of Cranswick Watson, says: "Here in Yorkshire, it is going to make a big difference. It should definitely speed up the transaction and it should also do something to improve the image problem of solicitors."

The public perception of lawyers as slow and inefficient is clearly a worry that still weighs heavily on many solicitors, especially as the threat of competition from the financial institutions is starting to take on formidible shape.

But the real question is whether

or not TransAction will help solicitors collectively in the conveyancing market place. Or, indeed, whether it will, as David Knox of Barlows, a Guildford firm, put it, "enable the Law Society to steal a march on the Lord Chancellor".

"I am afraid I think that we may have gone past the point at which we could fight off the financial institutions," says Emry Pierce, of Merrills Edie, a Cardiff legal firm. "We should have done it years ago."

One observer of the legal scene believes that once the big financial institutions get involved in conveyancing, offering it as part of their home-buying package, they will take 10 per cent of the market from solicitors within the first 12 months. For TransAction to be an effective marketing tool in the profession's hands, he says, it should have been launched in the mid-1980s when the house market was buoyant.

Meanwhile, solicitors throughout

the country will, no doubt, be using TransAction as a publicity weapon to fight each other. Ian Slinger, of Midlands firm Owston, for example, has become the local TransAction guru in Leicestershire by appearing on local radio and writing for the local newspaper. A good opportunity for him, certainly, but it may be a bit too late for the profession as a whole.



Solicitor Stephen Gold: "I welcome a way of cutting through the mystique."

INNS AND OUTS

Despite all the petty squabbling over the Courts and Legal Services Bill, the Bar Council and the Law Society are united in their concern over one issue: the declining level of eligibility for help under the legal aid schemes. In a joint letter to the Lord Chancellor last week, the two bodies called for an independent review of legal aid eligibility, to report within six months. They argue that the general review of the legal aid scheme announced by the Lord Chancellor last year is flawed. It will take two to three years to complete, and the focus on the "better targeting" of legal aid sounds suspiciously as though it will lead to a further restriction on eligibility. The fact that the review will be conducted by civil servants behind closed doors is also worrying, especially when the Government has hotly disputed the finding of previous reviews.

A speedy independent review is urgently needed because eligibility levels have failed to modify to take into account progressive increases in disposable income. The annual updating of eligibility levels by 5.2 per cent does not even keep eligibility limits in line with inflation. In 1979, the head of a household with a dependent spouse and two children, earning an average income, was eligible for contributory legal aid. Today he would not qualify for any help under the scheme. The same individual earning two thirds of the national average income, would have to contribute 7.02 per cent of gross income in order to qualify, compared with no contributions in 1979.

While the City grumbled about the Budget, the flags went out on the desks of women all over the country. John Major hit the right button when he announced that from April 6 employees will be exempt from income tax on the benefit of workplace nurseries provided by their employers. The exemption applies to nurseries run at the place of work or elsewhere by either the employer alone or jointly with other employers, voluntary bodies or local authorities. The pressure on law firms to provide nursery facilities for the growing numbers of women lawyers, as well as the female members of their support staff, will now be intense.

But whether the City law firms will want to splash out on nursery facilities in these increasingly troubled times is open to question as the recent plight of accountancy firms has shown. Much of their fantastic growth in the late 1980s came from setting up corporate finance and management consultancy arms, high margin business which fed off the accountants' staple auditing work. But in these difficult days the first thing the client is cutting back on is specialist consultancy services.

The premium work is dwindling away and with incomes increasing at barely 7 per cent, the accountants are starting to feel the squeeze. The City law firms have also grown used to a steady diet of advising on mergers and acquisitions, flotations and management buy-outs, often in direct competition with the accountancy firms. And the lawyers are suffering the same drop in work. Riding on the boom, many grew rapidly, taking on more lawyers, merging and opening expensive overseas offices (especially Tokyo). City watchers anticipate signs of stress.

Recipients of the first issue of the recently launched *Legal Business* may have been impressed by the long list of "founder subscribers" which the magazine claimed, gave it a "larger subscriber-base than the *New Law Journal*, *The Solicitors Journal* or the *Lawyer*". However, word has reached Scrivener that some of the firms listed were rather upset to see their name used in that way. Founder subscriber meant, it seems, that a firm had indicated it was interested in seeing the new publication, with a view to subscribing, but as a later letter from the publisher, *Legalease*, confirmed, "it was specifically agreed that the firm would be under no obligation to proceed." If the firm did choose to subscribe, all the partners and senior managers would receive copies at a substantial discount. *Legal Business* rather looks as if it has put the cart before the horse.

Scrivener

Why I oppose the wind of change

Should we meddle with a highly respected contracts procedures?

An important international change is pending which has received little attention. The UK Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods is the subject of a consultation document from the Department of Trade and Industry, dated June this year.

The convention, already ratified by 19 countries, including the United States, proposes a new law for "cross-border" sale of goods. Its provisions are complex but not comprehensive. National law of the contracting parties will still be relevant, even when the countries of both have ratified.

This is because some important elements of contract law, such as when property passes, the validity of the contract, the effect of usage, liability for death or personal injury and the essential requirement of capacity to contract, are all left to be decided by national law. National laws, of course, differ widely on the subject.

The stated object of adopting "uniform rules which govern contracts for the International Sale of

Goods" so as to "...contribute to the removal of legal barriers in international trade" is obviously desirable – but not so easy to achieve. It is not, regrettably, likely to be realized by ratification of the convention because so much of national law remains.

International accord on vexed questions such as the need to establish commercial benefit in relation to reliance on guarantees by a parent of a subsidiary company's liability, contracts outside the scope of a company's memorandum of association, and the like are not mentioned in the convention.

Worse, the existing certainty of our own law of contract would be undermined by provisions in Article 8 of the convention, which provides that the written terms as agreed between the parties could be displaced if one party were to rely on preceding negotiations or subsequent conduct as proof of the

intent of either party at the time of contracting. This might displace the intention set out in the written contract itself.

Certainty as to the terms and effects of the contract is of paramount importance and would be imperilled by the provision of "convention law", should it apply.

Two earlier conventions with the same basic theme are already part of our law by reason of the Uniform Laws on International Sales Act 1967. There is no single case recorded of any contract subject to the provisions of this Act coming before the courts for interpretation or enforcement. The vital difference is that the earlier conventions do not apply unless the contracting parties say they shall. Presumably, few have done so. This contrasts with the provisions of the present convention in that a contract as defined would be subject to the "convention law", unless the

contracting parties expressly excluded it.

The trouble is that people tend to forget. "Convention law", if not excluded, will apply and our own business community may find itself, to its own surprise, faced with a defence, perhaps, that the other party to the contract had no capacity to contract under his/her own national law or bound by terms which our UK businessmen have never heard of, and which even may be varied because of the intentions of the opposing party at the time or, even because of subsequent events.

A further cogent point is that if the UK ratifies it, "convention law" will become part of English law. At present, English law, and the judges who administer it, are so highly regarded that cases heard in the Commercial Court in the last year the parties were split roughly 50-50 between English and foreign litigants and, almost more surprisingly, nearly 30 per cent of all the cases had no English litigant at all.

This tremendous accolade for English law and for English justice must be imperilled by the UK adopting a common denominator, a "convention law" thrashed out around a negotiating table, to which nobody had seriously objected but in which there is clearly no discernible advantage, either.

Convention law is to be interpreted by the courts of all the countries concerned. This raises a somewhat daunting prospect and the unanswered question of "what happens when interpretations differ?"

We must not be deceived by the glitz of a uniformity that will not be achieved. We must not imperil the excellent status English law and its administrators undoubtedly have in the eyes of the world.

Derek Wheatley QC

• The author, formerly chief legal adviser at Lloyds Bank, is now in private practice at the Bar.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on
next page

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All applications will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Please write to Clare Tattersall at Spicers Executive Selection, Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2NP, enclosing a full Curriculum Vitae.



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For more details of these or the many more opportunities we have available throughout Central London and the Provinces, call or send e-mail to Andrew Vivian or Paul Stapleton.

Tel : 01 236 4402
63 Carter Lane
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Continued From
Previous Page**LEGAL APPOINTMENTS**

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**International
Finance Seminar****Linklaters & Paines**

International Finance has been one of the major growth areas in the City for a number of years. It includes an exciting mix of securities issues, syndicated loans, project financing and other banking transactions, as well as cross-border acquisition financing – often involving overseas travel and aggressive timetables.

Opportunities abound for young energetic lawyers, although understandably they are sometimes wary of entering a field in which they have little or no relevant experience.

We have invited Terence Kyle, Head of the International Finance Section of Linklaters & Paines, one of the leading firms in this area, to talk about what it is like to be an international finance lawyer and the training involved.

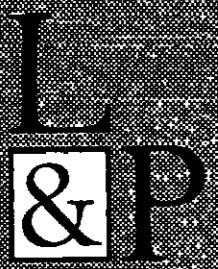
Afterwards, you will be able to talk informally over drinks with him and a number of his colleagues, including some who have recently joined the firm.

The seminar should be of particular interest to both solicitors and barristers, especially those recently qualified or approaching qualification this year.

If you would like to attend the evening, which is to be held on 4th April 1990 at 6.30pm at Michael Page Legal, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH please call Katrina Smith on 01-831 2000 or write to her at the above address.



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Please send your detailed cv to J. Hilliker, Personnel Manager, Mercantile Group plc, Churchill Plaza, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1GP.

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**Partnership
Birmingham**

Our client is a medium-sized practice whose dynamic young team of Partners have been responsible for the remarkably rapid development of a substantial clientele, including public and private companies and local authorities.

Two additional Partners are needed in the Commercial Department. Candidates should possess at least three years post-qualification experience (probably with a large City firm) in one or more of the following areas:

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- ★ Commercial conveyancing ★ General banking law

They should also have the ambition, enthusiasm and personal qualities to facilitate the continued growth of the practice.

The Partners are practising Christians and hope their new colleagues will share their ethical approach to their professional life.

Please apply to Sir Timothy Hoare, Career Plan Ltd, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS. Tel: 01-242 5775 (01-607 7359 between 7.30 and 9.30 pm). Fax: 01-831 7623.

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CO-COMMERCIAL £30-65,000
Tokyo, Japan Our client, a leading international practice seeks a solicitor with 2-5 years PQE to join their Tokyo office, handling a broad mixture of company commercial work. A knowledge of Japanese would be an advantage, although not essential.

CO-COMMERCIAL/FINANCE £30-45,000
Holborn Our client is a dynamic medium sized firm with an impressive client base. It now seeks an additional team member c2-3 years PQE, to join them handling a very broad spread of company commercial work and finance. Lawyers with relevant experience gained, in private practice, in working for a bank or financial institution or in the property industry are invited to apply.

For further information please call or write to Karen Mulvihill or Ian Pearce on

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Hampshire Our client seeks a young solicitor c2 years PQE to handle a mix of commercial work and commercial property including contracts of lease and HP, computer contracts, land mortgages and commercial conveyancing matters in respect of their large office network.

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W London Our client seeks a capable young Lawyer to handle negotiation of commercial contracts including computer contracts, acquisitions and disposals, company formations and dissolutions and employment matters. This position involves travel abroad two or three days per month. Knowledge of French or German would be useful.

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Please telephone to arrange a confidential meeting, or write with your CV to James McCrory, Harding Legal Division, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BP. Tel: 01-222 7733.

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If you would like to apply please write in confidence, enclosing a CV, to:

Alizoun Dickinson,
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Tel: 01-405 7878

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COMM PROPERTY**c. £27,000**

A newly or recently admitted solicitor, wishing to specialise in good quality commercial property, is sought for the expanding property department of a progressive Covent Garden practice.

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A rare opportunity has arisen for a recently qualified solicitor, with a sound academic record and good tax/commercial experience in articles, to join the prestigious tax department of a recognised City practice. The position would suit someone with company/commercial experience who is willing to retrain and who would be able to draw on the considerable expertise available.

Out of London**LITIGATION****To £25,000**

A young, energetic litigation solicitor who enjoys criminal advocacy is sought by this small but buoyant general practice close to the East/West Sussex border. There are modern offices with good back-up, located in an area with considerable potential for growth.

INSOLVENCY**To £30,000+**

A prominent Birmingham practice needs an experienced insolvency solicitor to join its expanding department. Ideally applicants should have up to five years relevant experience but those with more experience will be considered. Excellent prospects for the right applicant.

LITIGATION/INSOLVENCY**To £25,000+**

Expanding Somerset practice requires a solicitor for commercial litigation and insolvency. The ideal applicant will have recent relevant experience with a minimum of two to three years pge. Applicants with more experience will be considered and will be remunerated appropriately.

Commerce/Industry**CONSTRUCTION****c. £25,000**

A lawyer is required for a large recognised construction company North West of London. The ideal candidate will have pge that includes some knowledge of construction/property matters.

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Applications in writing with full Curriculum Vitae to N Bourne, Holborn College, 200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9RY. Tel: 01-385 3377. Fax: 01-381 3377

Closing date for applications 30th April 1990.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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- corporate finance including acquisitions
- large overseas joint ventures
- design, construction and technology agreements
- international trading and shipping
- competition
- commercial and consumer
- environment.

Following this there will be opportunities to develop a career as a legal generalist, as our Legal Advisers are not restricted to one area of law, or alternatively in a non-legal field.

Applicants must have a consistently good academic record, including an honours degree in an appropriate discipline, not necessarily law, and have had at least two years legal experience in private practice or industry after qualifying as a Solicitor or Barrister. Apart from working to the highest professional standards, you should possess the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with all levels of management and to play a full part as a member of multi-discipline business teams.

Remuneration, including a wide range of benefits, will be fully competitive.

For applications to both Shell companies, please write or telephone for an application form quoting reference 0/009 to:

Shell U.K. Limited, UKPR/5
Shell-Mex House, Strand, London WC2R 0DX.
Telephone: 01-257 3929

The closing date for return of applications is 17th April 1990.



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COMPANY COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES Partner Designate & Assistant Solicitor

A substantial progressive City practice with commercial clients, ranging from recently established businesses to listed companies at home and abroad, offers the following appointments.

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Assistant Solicitor. Applicants should have at least one year's relevant post admission experience in a leading City or provincial practice. Newly admitted solicitors who have acquired sound company commercial experience in Articles will be considered. Opportunities for rapid advancement are excellent. Remuneration will reflect ability and commitment.

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For further information please contact Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M., on 01-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Ltd., 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, EC4A 1DY.

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Our high profile medium-sized City client is regularly involved in major international litigation. Alive to the complexities of, and speed of response required on, multi-jurisdictional asset seizures it has forged close contacts with leading foreign firms.

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For further information, please contact Jonathan Macrae on 01-405 6062 (01-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WCIV 6JD.



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For further information, please contact Alistair Dougall on 01-405 6062 (01-773 3702 evenings/weekends) or write to Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WCIV 6JD.



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Please write enclosing CV and current salary details to Alan Davies, Information Bank Manager, Freshfields, Whitefriars, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HT.

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challenging, involving all aspects of UK company law, international law, contractual agreements and close involvement with new product developments. Responsibilities will also include ensuring full compliance of the company with the SIB and other regulatory requirements and the international dimension will stem from joint venture arrangements in other European capitals.

Candidates should have a Law degree and also be qualified as a solicitor or barrister with a minimum of three years post qualifying experience gained either in the financial services sector or City based law firm. Experience of UK company law and compliance should be combined with international exposure,

a knowledge of European law and languages and a preparedness to travel. The personal qualities of an analytical and thorough approach augmented by the ability and determination to become an integral part of the senior management team are essential.

An excellent salary and benefits package will be negotiated with the successful candidate.

Please write in the first instance, enclosing a CV and full salary details, quoting ref E/0062T to Christopher Bainton Executive Selection Division Price Waterhouse Management Consultants No. 1 London Bridge London SE1 9QL Tel. 01-334 5273

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Our client is the merchant banking and capital markets arm of one of the world's leading banks.

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The successful candidate will act as the Company's legal adviser in relation to all aspects of its activities, including public and private bond issues, swap transactions, options and other derivative products, and will also be fully involved in the Company's expanding corporate finance activities.

The ideal candidate will be aged between 27 and 35 with relevant experience gained in the banking sector or within private practice.

The comprehensive salary and benefits package will be highly attractive and will include a subsidised mortgage.

For further information please contact Laurence Simons on 01 831 3270 (01 485 1345 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Laurence Simons Associates, 33 Johns Mews, London WC1N 2NS.

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We are instructed by a prominent City practice to select and introduce a solicitor admitted around five years for its high profile Commercial Property Department. The successful candidate will join a team handling major development projects of all kinds. Good relevant experience and an ability to handle varied and challenging work in a highly professional and pragmatic manner are essential requirements.

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Please apply, in strict confidence, to Mack Dinshaw or Stephen Watkins.

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TENANCY

A vacancy has arisen in the above common law chambers for an established practitioner of 5-8 years' call.

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HORIZONS

Academic skills on the factory floor

An expanding graduate scheme is reaping rewards for industry and colleges. Sally Watts discovers how much they can learn from each other

Young science and technology graduates of a good academic standard can give their career a strong start through the Teaching Company Scheme (TCS), in which they form a link between industry and a centre of higher education.

The maximum age is normally 28, and graduates — who are known as associates — should have a first or upper second degree, though this may be waived if they have particularly relevant work experience.

An association lasts two years, during which the graduate helps the employing company to achieve greater efficiency and competitiveness by updating and developing its processes and equipment. Throughout this time, he or she is backed by the academic staff of the university or polytechnic partnering the company.

This early industrial experience greatly enhances the graduates' career prospects. John Monnot, acting director of the TCS, says: "They develop very far and fast. About half stay on with their company. Many are appointed to middle management and a lot soon reach senior management."

The idea is to get technically qualified managers for industry."

Although not new, the scheme has developed considerably over the past few years. Today, it has 360 partnerships between industry and academic centres. Nearly every university and most polytechnics take part, and one or two institutes of higher education, including Dorset.

Originally, TCS was restricted to manufacturing technology, but now it covers virtually all areas of technology and science — including pure science — and, more recently, management. In addition, greater attention is given to formal specialist training for associates, both in their own subject and in management development.

Jamie Lyke, 23, is a relatively new associate. Since September, he has been a manufacturing engineer with Caledonian Mining Company at Newark. After his degree in mechanical engineering, manufacturing and management at Birmingham, he did an advanced course in design, manufacture and management at Cambridge, the academic partner in his association.

His work, he says, offers "autonomy, scope and responsibility". Jamie, who hopes to join



Hands-on experience: Jamie Lyke, manufacturing engineer working at the Caledonian Mining Company

the staff when his two years end, added: "I am getting wide experience with training and the opportunity to use diverse technologies."

"No one should be put off by the 'teaching' part of the title. It's not just academic; there's the opportunity to mix with all levels of management."

A few years further on, Steve Foster, a former associate, is 29 and already in senior management as factory manager of a Liverpool metal finishing company, King

and Fowler, where he hopes to introduce a TCS. His degree was in mechanical engineering and his first job was as a graduate trainee, but he left to join a TCS linked with Wolverhampton Polytechnic, believing this would be a faster route.

He was right. "It was an ideal way of growing up quickly; dealing with people on the shop floor and having contact with the two directors. The work was very interesting."

"The scheme helped me in team

'Associates can develop very far and fast... about half stay on'

Economic Development for Northern Ireland. About half the programmes are with small firms, and the TCS wants to raise the number to 60 per cent.

The scheme has two main functions to bring the expertise of academics into industry, and to develop able graduates for industrial careers, backed by practical training and a real work environment. Women associates are increasing and the TCS is keen to enrol more.

Associates are paid a full industrial salary, 60 per cent of which comes from the teaching company, the balance from the employing company, and some have a company car.

A good example of how companies benefit from the scheme comes from Whitecroft plc, a holding company at Wilmslow, which over the past three years has employed six associates for its small firms, specializing in textiles, engineering and lighting.

Through its partnership with Salford University, Whitecroft has gained an understanding of the long-term needs of an old-established engineering company. Associates have helped the company to determine how best to update the machinery and to

choose new equipment. Other graduates have worked on marketing schemes in textile and lighting companies, backed by Salford's business department, and one has helped to implement a quality control system.

"We are very supportive of the scheme," says Dr Richard Gair, group personnel director. "It enables us to get good young graduates and have very useful contact with the university. We are now putting ourselves forward for three more schemes."

Academic centres also benefit from the liaison between professional staff and top industrial management. Professor George Thompson, who introduced the scheme at Nottingham Polytechnic, explains that teaching and syllabus content are enhanced through contact with the practical applications (rather than just theory) of new technology.

Projects of final year students benefit too, because they have greater relevance. The scheme can also lead to additional staff activities, such as consultancies or developing short courses.

For the graduate, there is up-to-date training and a high level of work and research, which tempts many to do a second degree. And the "competitive salary", says Prof Thompson, is higher than for non-associates. He adds: "It's delightful to see a raw young graduate arguing a technical point with the managing director."

• The Teaching Company, Salford House, London Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 8AA.

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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TECHNICAL

CAN YOU FILL IN THE GAPS IN OUR I.T. ORGANISATION?

I.T. IN ACTION

Salary £10,000-£20,000 plus benefits
plus a major commitment to staff training and development

The development of Information Technology is seen as critical to the achievements of the Council's business objectives. We are therefore implementing an innovative and progressive strategy to deliver fundamental improvements in our systems.

OUR I.T. STRATEGY

Built around the Council's unique structure which organises all of its services in seven autonomous Neighbourhoods, our strategy is as ambitious as anything being pursued in local government. The technology is at the leading edge and we are installing a network of IBM AS400s — one in each Neighbourhood and one for the central departments. We need staff to work on priority applications, e.g. Social Services, Housing Repairs, Personnel, to work in our project office co-ordinating the Strategy and to lead or assist in the setting up of a help desk service — up to £20,000.

Resources are not just required for the central I.T. group. Our Neighbourhoods also need Systems Administrators for the new AS400s. We need a number of staff to run the AS400 on a day-to-day basis. This will be an excellent training ground for a career in I.T. — up to £15,000.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support is critical to the success of all our I.T. projects and we have a separate team specialising in network management, telecommunications, security and data protection. We need people keen to learn the technical aspects of I.T. or with considerable experience in running networks or leading on telecommunication projects — up to £20,000.

MICRO APPLICATIONS

Micro applications form another important arm in the overall development of Information Technology both in the Neighbourhoods and the Centre with a user base in excess of 500. Tower Hamlets has standardised on IBM hardware and the following software: DW4, SCS, dBase, Clipper and Pagemaker. We need people with a proven track record in applications development and support. Experience in Novell networks and PC based project management would also be useful — up to £20,000.

DIRECT LABOUR SYSTEM

In parallel with these developments, the Council is also implementing a discrete BULL direct labour system. This is seen as crucial to the long term survival of our direct labour organisation and its successful introduction is of the highest priority. We need someone to run the new system and more junior staff to assist in the on-going development — up to £20,000.

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

Additionally, our financial systems are delivered through a shared mainframe which is managed outside the organisation by LOLA but which requires a level of co-ordination and direction from the Authority. We need staff comfortable and interested in working with financial systems. Some experience in finance would be advantageous — up to £18,500.

NEIGHBOURHOOD I.T. OFFICER

Poplar Neighbourhood require an Information Technology Officer to manage their local I.T. team — you will be responsible for the Neighbourhood's I.T. strategy, local PC developments, telecommunications and integration into the various corporate I.T. initiatives — up to £20,000.

TRAINING/MANAGING THE CHANGE

All of the above are underpinned and supported by training both for the user and management. It has a high profile and is seen as essential to effective implementation in every area. In keeping with our commitment to training, this team needs more resources. You could be a trainer interested in I.T. or an I.T. specialist interested in training — up to £20,000.

Clearly, we are looking for a wide range of individuals: this could therefore be your first venture into I.T., or it could be your opportunity to lead a team developing a major application on our AS400s. The implementation of our strategy requires individuals of the highest calibre both in the central group and the Neighbourhood teams.

If you have the necessary skills and experience, or simply an interest, in any of the above, we would like to hear from you. We are strongly committed to the personal and technical development of our staff and will make a major commitment to improving your skills and broadening your experience. As you can see, salaries range from £10,000 to £20,000 plus a competitive benefits package. A full information pack including job descriptions, person specifications and full details about our I.T. initiatives is available from Personnel Reception, Town Hall, Patriot Square, London E2 9LN, or telephone: 01-980 4831 ext 5218.

Furthermore if you wish to discuss any of the above posts or what is going on in I.T. in Tower Hamlets, please ring John Tipping on extension 5263.

Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets has transformed local Government by decentralising service delivery and accountability to seven Neighbourhoods.

What Tower Hamlets is achieving today others will attempt tomorrow.

The commitment, energy, drive and innovation of staff are essential to our success.

Tower Hamlets is committed to effective implementation of its Equal Opportunities Policy.

Applications are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post(s) regardless of sex, sexual orientation, religion, race, origin, marital status, disablement or age.

All jobs are open to jobshare unless otherwise stated.

The Council's recruitment and retention package could mean subsidised car leasing, a relocation package worth up to £6,000, bridging loan facilities, free life insurance, subsidised mortgage and travel allowance.

SENIOR AUDITOR

Salary : up to £17,000 per annum

This post, in the recently established Internal Audit Unit, offers a qualified accountant variety and the opportunity to develop managerial skills. The successful candidate will plan and undertake both financial and value for money audits. The ability to work on own initiative and prepare and present reports effectively is essential.

For application form and further particulars (Ref. 42/80) contact Staff Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Applications Closing Date: 9 April 1990.

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SATURDAY Overseas and UK Holidays: Villas/Cottages, Hotels, Flights, etc. Restaurant Guide: Where to eat in London and nationwide with editorial. Shopper's Window: Shopping from the comfort of your own home. Gardening.

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TENNIS

Edberg transformed by inexplicable run of unforced errors

From Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent, Key Biscayne, Florida

TENNIS players have always been sceptical of statistics. As Ivan Lendl says, it does not matter how many aces he serves in a match, it is when he serves them that is important. But, after his unexpected defeat by Andre Agassi in the final of the Lipton International on Sunday, Stefan Edberg should take note of one statistic in four sets, lasting two hours seven minutes, he made 72 unforced errors.

Not surprisingly, as there had been little sign of such fragility during the week, Edberg was at a loss to explain the sudden disintegration of his technique. Going into the final, he had won 16 out of 18 matches this year and one of those defeats was because of injury in the final of the Australian Open. He had beaten Agassi in the final at Indian Wells a fortnight ago.

"I just couldn't get to the ball," Edberg said. "He played very well and I was always a step behind myself. I had no timing and felt a little flat."

Even after this loss, Edberg has climbed above Becker to be the world No. 2, so consistently has he played since he became Masters champion in November. He would have preferred to have done it with more style. Just 24 hours earlier, Emilio Sanchez, his

semi-final victim, had been wondering if Edberg could play any better.

Edberg's enigmatic display should take nothing away from Agassi, whose own reward, apart from the \$179,500 (£112,000) first prize, was to leapfrog over Brad Gilbert to No. 4 in the rankings. Amid a background of tension over his refusal to play in the Davis Cup tie against Czechoslovakia in Prague at the end of this week, Agassi has played sparkling tennis culminating in his 6-1, 6-4, 6-6, 6-1 victory over the American retrieved volleys and overheads which Edberg thought were winners and when one desperate backhand lunge sailed over Edberg's head in the fourth set and landed on the baseline, the Swede's spirit was finally broken.

"If I hit that shot 10 times, I'd be lucky to make it once," Agassi admitted.

Luck, however, has had only a little part to play in Agassi's improved start to the season. He has spent much of the off season working on his fitness under a new trainer, Gil Reyes, and his game has clearly benefited. Equally significantly, Agassi has cut

the showmanship from his game.

He will still go for the spectacular if he can, but his more businesslike "I feel a lot stronger than last year," Agassi said. "A lot fitter and a lot tougher mentally. If the guys are going to beat me, they're starting to realize that we're starting to realize that we're going to have to work."

The only lapse in a near flawless performance by Agassi came in the fourth set. Broken early, he simply let the set go, which seemed a dangerous tactic against someone of Edberg's class. As it turned out, his carelessness was not exploited. When Agassi applied the pressure in the fourth set, Edberg crumbled again, serving double-faults to lose each of his first two service games.

"Last year, Edberg would have been very confident going into the fourth set," Agassi added, "because he would have been thinking 'All I have to do is hang in there and he'll get tired.' That's not the case this year. I've only just scratched the surface. I can be a lot fitter than I am now."

Edberg and his wife, Pam, who is also blind, devote a great deal of time and energy to a wide range of charitable causes through their own organization, Varies. Standing for Voluntary Agency Reading Versatile Emergency Services, the Gulliver network is a collection agency hoarding everything from clothes to books to old cookers.

In training for his third London Marathon, Gulliver is irritated by most people's response to his achievements. "When I tell people what I have done, they are amazed," he said. "They tell me they couldn't run a marathon and they're not even blind. People see me as blind first and an athlete second."

Gulliver has to run with two escorts to steer him through the crowds in the London Marathon but, unlike some other blind athletes, he is not physically tied to them. "They just push me left or right to get me past," he said.

As for the loose ends to be tied up in pool D of the world championships, which ended in Cardiff on Sunday night, Great Britain dominated the group in nearly every department.

The only one in which either of the countries was able to shine was in goalkeeping and Damian Holland, who per-

formed such heroics in the Australian net, was voted the best goalkeeper of the week.

Tony Hand, who scored six goals and seven assists, was voted the best forward in the competition and Stephen Cooper the best defenceman.

Thirty-two of Great Britain's 57 goals were scored by home-bred players and the reunited Ian Cooper, Anthony and Stephen Johnson line topped them all with 18 goals and 14 assists.

RESULTS: Heineken League: First division: Cleveland Bombers 14, Streatham Redskins 7; Swindon Wildcats 6, Teford Panthers 5; Birmingham Hawks 5; Sheffield Stars 5; Cleveland Bombers 19, Trafford Metros 8; Humberstone Shearwicks 5; Streatham Redskins 6; Lee Valley Lions 6; Teesside Tigers 15.

One while training in the Reading University grounds,

one of his favourite haunts, he careered into a group of bystanders, flattening two and knocking over a third. "But they didn't say anything," he said. "I thought by keeping quiet, I wouldn't know where they were. Even when I spoke to them they still kept quiet."

Gulliver finds that this is a common reaction after such accidents. On more than one occasion, people have taken a silent swing at him rather than apologize or help. But be warned: "I'm very quick. Once I hear them move I can catch them and then I've got them."

Constant collisions have in the past eroded Gulliver's confidence. "It's not just the fight but the thought of what could have been," he said. He decided to seek professional advice to see if there were any gadgets or devices to help him avoid the great British public as he ran. There was none. "But," he said, "they suggested I wear a large white t-shirt with 'I am a blind runner' written on the front."

Gulliver's travails and travels

By Alix Ramsey

ACCORDING to Bill Gulliver, running the London Marathon is the easy part. It is not the sort of statement you expect to hear from someone preparing to take on the world's biggest slog around London's streets.

But for Gulliver, aged 54, the experienced runner of many a marathon from New York to St Albans, joint founder of the Varies charity, marriage guidance and bereavement counsellor, and blind to boot, lining up on the start alongside 30,000 athletes signals the end of months of hard work.

"It is very important that I take part in the marathon whenever I can, because each time I am running for important causes and charities," he says. "Actually getting into the race, towing the PR publicity and sponsorship is like carrying Mount Everest on your shoulders. Running is the easiest part

of the job." The Times & UNISYS ADT London Marathon Appeal

— it's like running on air all the way round.

This year, as one of *The Times* and Unisys entrants, Gulliver will be raising money for REAP — the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project. The charity runs a night shelter offering food, beds and rehabilitation for the homeless and is trying to buy and equip a halfway house to help the homeless to cope on their own once they have found permanent accommodation.

Gulliver and his wife, Pam, who is also blind, devote a great deal of time and energy to a wide range of charitable causes through their own organization, Varies. Standing for Voluntary Agency Reading Versatile Emergency Services, the Gulliver network is a collection agency hoarding everything from clothes to books to old cookers.

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The blind man who leads the sighted: Gulliver, a giant in a field of 30,000, laces up for action

certain curiosity about my being blind and it helps publicity for the charities.

"Pam and I don't want to get to the end of our lives and look back across a void, a desert. Being blind can be an advantage. When we achieve our goals there is a certain incredulity from the public. We feel we have to be seen to be proving ourselves."

The Times and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by featuring the efforts of our 12 fund runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to *The Times* and Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, *The Times*, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN. We will send on your donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser of our 12 and a Jebojam and a magnum of champagne respectively to the second and third largest.

STUDENT SPORT

Handsome double for Scots diver

By Mike Lamb

PETER Smith, the Scotland international, who is studying at Jordanshill College, took the highboard and springboard titles in the British students' diving championships at Leeds over the weekend.

Winning both events with a handsome margin, Smith left Erwin Cunniff, from the College of Ripon and York St John, and Julian Bellan, of Leeds Polytechnic, to battle for second and third places in the springboard, with Cunniff coming in on top. Bellan took silver in the highboard, finishing 50 points behind Smith, but 80 points up on the third-placed Phil Stone, of Liverpool University.

Jeanette Booth, of Loughborough University, won the women's diving titles, beating Kirby Johnson, of Nottingham Polytechnic, both times.

RESULTS: Men's Highboard: 1, P Smith (Jordanshill Coll); 2, E Cunniff (College of Ripon and York St John); 3, S Stone (Liverpool Univ). 199/75, Springboard: 1, P Smith (Jordanshill Coll); 2, E Cunniff (College of Ripon and York St John); 3, J Bellan (Leeds Poly), 200/25.

Women: Highboard: 1, J Booth (Loughborough Univ); 2, K Johnson (Nottingham Poly); 3, S Morrison (WUCC). 150/50, Springboard: 1, J Booth (Loughborough Univ), 199/75; 2, K Johnson (Nottingham Poly), 184/05; 3, S Morrison (WUCC), 165/05.

• Helen Walsh, of Swansea University, unbeaten in student swimming, retained her 400 metres freestyle, 200 metres breaststroke and 200 metres individual medley titles at the BSF long-course championships, helping Swansea women's team to British Universities and UAU team titles. Three gold medals also went to Sean McQuaid, captain of Loughborough University, who finished clear leaders in the men's 400m medley. Loughborough also secured overall victory.

RESULTS: Freestyle: 50m: A Rapsel (Crawley and Sussex Coll), 24.55sec. 100m: S McQuaid (Loughborough Univ), 50.20sec. 200m: S McQuaid (Loughborough Univ), 1:58.07. 400m: S McQuaid (Loughborough Univ), 4:17.47. 4 x 100m relay: Loughborough Univ, 1:41.78.

• 200m butterfly: Loughborough Univ, 2:41.47. Breaststroke: 100m: S Curran (Glasgow Univ), 2:21.28; 200m: N Curran (Glasgow Univ), 2:21.08; 400m: S Curran (Glasgow Univ), 2:21.17.

• 200m backstroke: 100m: E Alexander (Dundee Univ), 2:14.51; 200m: H Walsh (Swansea Univ), 2:14.70; 400m: H Walsh (Swansea Univ), 2:14.59. 200m butterfly: M Gray (Jordanhill Coll), 2:25.43. Fly: 100m: S Lewis (Swansea Univ), 1:28.50; 200m: S Lewis (Swansea Univ), 2:07.74; 400m: H Walsh (Swansea Univ), 2:22.47.

• 4 x 100m relay: Loughborough, 1:42.18; 2: London Univ, 6:23.31; Leeds Univ, 2:20.70; 3: 1:58.07. 400m: S McQuaid (Loughborough Univ), 4:12.18; Team: 1, Loughborough Univ, 150/85; 2, London Univ, 6:23.31; 3, Leeds Univ, 2:20.70.

• 200m butterfly: 100m: L Harvey (Glasgow Univ), 2:11.76; 200m: H Walsh (Swansea Univ), 2:11.76.

• 200m backstroke: 100m: E Alexander (Dundee Univ), 2:14.51; 200m: H Walsh (Swansea Univ), 2:14.70; 400m: H Walsh (Swansea Univ), 2:14.59. 200m butterfly: M Gray (Jordanhill Coll), 2:25.43. Fly: 100m: S Lewis (Swansea Univ), 1:28.50; 200m: S Lewis (Swansea Univ), 2:07.74; 400m: H Walsh (Swansea Univ), 2:22.47.

• 4 x 100m relay: Loughborough, 1:42.18; Team: 1, S Lewis (Swansea Univ), 1:28.50; 2, London Univ, 2:07.74; 3, London Univ, 2:22.47.

• Overall team: 1, Loughborough Univ, 150/85; 2, Swansea Univ, 162; 3, London Univ, 123.

ICE HOCKEY

Two saturation raids by Bombers

By Norman de Mesquita

THE HEINEKEN League regular season was completed at the weekend with the last six first division matches tying up the loose ends.

They showed that Cleveland Bombers, with two double-figure wins, are in excellent form as they prepare for the play-offs. A number of spectacular individual feats were the highlights of those games.

Kevin Conway scored 14 goals and six assists to take his total points to 188 and Timothy Cranston amassed 12 goals and six assists to take his total to 163 points.

Andre Malo, without doubt the outstanding defenceman in

the division, had a goal and 17 assists for a total of 121 points, which took him into ninth position in the individual scoring chart.

At the other end of the table, Lee Valley Lions were once again beaten heavily and took their goals against to an embarrassing 349 in 32 games.

As for the loose ends to be tied up in pool D of the world championships, which ended in Cardiff on Sunday night, Great Britain dominated the group in nearly every department.

The only one in which either of the countries was able to shine was in goalkeeping and Damian Holland, who per-

County Secretary

£39,441-£43,389

We have decided to establish a County Secretary's Department to cover all legal and central administrative aspects of the Council's work. Heading the Department and as a member of the Chief Officers' Management Team, the County Secretary will have an outstanding opportunity to contribute significantly to the future development and strategy of the County Council.

A legal background and qualification is essential and you will also need to demonstrate exceptional management and leadership skills gained at the highest level. The post is based in Northallerton, a market town within easy reach of some of Britain's finest countryside, including the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors National Parks.

Further details and application forms,

returnable by 6.4.90, available from the Personnel Section, Chief Executive's Department, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
£23,554 - £27,751 per annum
The General Medical Council is the regulatory body for the medical profession.
Applications are invited for the above post, in the Product and Health Division, to be head of the Health Section and Secretary of the Health Committee, dealing with cases of unfitness to practise medicine.
Candidates should be graduates with a minimum of six years' relevant experience in public administration. The ability to communicate well, both orally and in writing, is essential.
Experience of serving committees would be an advantage.
For further information please contact:
Personnel Division
44 Hallam Street, London WIN 6AE
Tel: 01 580 7642 (Ext. 2133)
Closing date for completed applications:
6 April 1990.

Essex
Engineer (Building Services)
£21,328 - £29,469 per annum under review
Applications are invited for the above post from suitably qualified Engineers and/or corporate members of either the Chartered Institution of Building Engineers or the Institution of Electrical Engineers.
Applicants will be expected to have good and recent experience in the design and maintenance of electrical and mechanical services in a large building complex using both a direct labour force and external contractors and consultants.
The successful candidate will be responsible for the cost effective operation of building services in the University's premises, together with managerial responsibility for a small team of craftsmen.
Assistance is available with relocation, removal and house purchase.
Applications for this post including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be received by the Registrar 11/04/90, TTSU, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ by Friday 4 April 1990. Further particulars of this post may be obtained by telephoning Colchester (0206) 673462/124.

English Heritage SENIOR MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

TO £26,900

English Heritage is England's main national body responsible for heritage conservation. It secures the preservation of the country's architectural and archaeological heritage and promotes the public's enjoyment and knowledge of this through the management of more than 350 historic properties in its care.

We are looking for an intelligent and enthusiastic accountant to head a team of seven staff, including three qualified accountants, who are responsible for the regular provision of financial information to management at all levels within the organisation which employs some 1,600 staff.

The post holder will take the lead in the preparation of the annual budget and have a major

RACING

Choicely-bred fillies to collect for Wragg

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

A DOUBLE for the Newmarket trainer Geoff Wragg and his new stable jockey Gary Carter looks a distinct possibility at Leicester today with *Vote In Favour* (2.0) and *Casamurrae* (4.5).

Both are beautifully-bred fillies who could well end up contesting much better races later in the season than those that confront them now.

Vote In Favour, my selection for the Keythorpe Maiden Stakes, is by General Assembly out of *Favoridge* who is by Riva Ridge out of *Favolta*, the winner of the Irish 1,000 Guineas in 1971.

This is the famous female family tracing back to *Hortonia* that served the Moller brothers so well for so long.

Following the death of Eric Moller, the vast majority of his bloodstock was bought last autumn by Sheikh Mohammed, whose colours *Vote In Favour* will carry this afternoon.

In her only race last year, she was a creditable second to the more experienced *Lip Sing* on today's track in November. With that experience behind her she should be capable of going one better in this company.

Her stable companion *Casamurrae*, who is my choice to win the Harborough Fillies Stakes, is very closely related to her owner Sir Philip Oppenheimer's 1982 1,000 Guineas

winner, *On The House*.

In the second of her two races last season, which was also on the same midland track, *Casamurrae* was beaten a head only by *Surpassing*. She should only have to give a repeat performance this afternoon to gain a coveted victory.

On the jumping front at Sandown Park, another double for Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore looks on the cards, thanks to *The Leggett* (2.15) and *Terside* (3.50).

Once it would have been foolhardy to oppose Kilbrannan Castle in a race such as the *Save & Prosper* 'Right O' The Line' Handicap Chase as Fulke Walwyn's old war horse has accumulated 11 victories on the track. Last time out, however, it looked as though the spade of days gone by was missing. I much prefer *The Leggett*; who has been in fine form all week ago, when he finished last of four.

I prefer to rely on *De Plavinel*, who is attempting to capture this race a third time, having won it in 1983 and again last year.

Belying his 17 years, *De Plavinel* ran Father Ted's neck in a hunter chase at the last meeting. Against that encouraging background, Guy Prest's old favourite has a sporting chance to triumph again.

Not surprisingly, he will be wearing them again this afternoon when his most dangerous rival would appear to be *Memerson*, who was winning for the fourth time on account of Ester course when accounting

for Tarconey and Baies at the last meeting.

Springholm bounced back to his best at the start of that same programme with a decisive victory in the Dick McCrea Cup. Now I strongly fancy his chance of winning the Royal Ordnance Handicap Chase over the same trip, and he is my nap to beat *Mandray* and *Kingmorse*.

The British Aerospace Rapiere Novices' Chase looks an ideal opportunity for *New Halen* to prove that his shock win at Cheltenham, where he swept away with the Midday of Flete Challenge Cup at 66-1, was no fluke.

In contrast, *All Jeff*, his main rival this afternoon, fell at Cheltenham.

Roscoe Harvey, who is the form horse for the Royal Artillery Gold Cup, will need to perform a great deal better than he did at Fontwell Park a week ago, when he finished last of four.

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on Saturday. *Memerson*, 11-4 Long Engagement, 4-1 *Torside*, 5-1 *Falls Ni Hinsa*, 12-1 *John O'Dee*, 7-2 *Jim Bowles*.

BETTING: 11-4 *Memerson*, 11-4 *Long Engagement*, 4-1 *Torside*, 5-1 *Falls Ni Hinsa*, 12-1 *John O'Dee*, 7-2 *Jim Bowles*.

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Going: firm

2.15 *SAVE & PROSPER* RIGHT O' THE LINE HANDICAP CHASE (84,250; 2m 4f 56yd) (5 runners)

101 182-612 CLARA MOUNTAIN 87 (GB) (F, G, G) (3rd Newbury) T Forster 11-11-10 —

102 10-3595 KILBRANNAN CASTLE 17 (GB) (F, G, G) (3rd Newbury) F Watton 14-11-0 — K McNamee

103 11-1994 TURNBERRY DAWN 18 (GB) (F, G, G) (3rd Newbury) T Forster 7-3-0 —

104 4-6900 PAN ARCTIC 10 (GB) (F, G) (3rd Newbury) T Forster 21-11-0 — J Railton (2)

105 305484 NOMINATE 3 (GB) (G, G) (M) (Gates) P Davis 11-10-0 — Terence Dennis

Long handicap: Pan Arctic 8-6, Numerate 7-2.

BETTING: 5-4 *Carausius*, 7-2 *The Leggett*, 7-2 *Kilbrannan Castle*, 20-1 others.

1989: AVADOGNOUE 7-10-4 D Tegg (7-4) Edwards 5-10

2.20 *Memerson* 7-10-4 N Sherrard 5-10

2.21 *De Plavinel* 7-10-4 Brian Moore 5-10

2.22 *Springholm* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.23 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.24 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.25 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.26 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.27 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

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2.42 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

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2.44 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

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2.46 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

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2.68 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.69 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.70 *Memerson* 7-10-4 S. Morris 5-10

2.71 <i

CRICKET

England must reassess control

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Port of Spain

ANY boxer who has heard the sweet sound of the bell after an entire round spent pinned against the ropes will appreciate the benefits England's cricketers may have derived on the rest day in this third Cable and Wireless Test match.

It was a day to regroup, reassess and, most important, to restore the positive thinking which, human nature insists, was compromised on Sunday as the West Indies fast bowlers finally freed their iron fists from the velvet gloves.

The clock was turned back two years and beyond, as Ian Bishop, Curly Ambrose and the impressive Ezra Moseley, on his first appearance, had English batsmen fending and flinching against bowling of alarming hostility. It was an overdue realisation from a team which remains far too good to submit without a scrap.

In 4½ hours of gripping cricket, England mustered 99 for eight from 55 overs. They were left with a first-innings lead of only 89 when, hours earlier, upwards of 200 had been in their sights.

The outcome was a confused debate, raging around Trinidad on the state of the game. The two daily newspapers here took contrasting views, their respective headlines yesterday reading: "Magnificent West Indies fight back" and "Windies slip up on third day".

Greenidge's two uncharacteristic lapses at slip, reprimanding Capel and Fraser, certainly allowed England a measure of leniency after they had lost six wickets for 49 but this should not detract from the resolution of Capel, who batted stoically for 3½ hours to justify his inclusion in the side.

Not only did Capel play the two shots of the day, hooking Walsh and square cutting Bishop to the boundary, he demonstrated a technique against the short ball which was worryingly lacking in some of the earlier bating.

The ethos of this England side, as preached by captain and management, is that only the next day matters and, at this critical juncture, it is a valuable attitude to sustain. Micky Stewart, the team manager, said yesterday: "It is taboo to look back at all, whether at short-pitched bowling or even names of the



Captain at the helm: Gooch takes the wheel of a speedboat with his team-mates, Lamb, Smith and Malcolm, on board during the Test rest day yesterday

opposition players. We only look at what is ahead and, in this game, I would still rather be in our position than theirs."

To emphasize his view that the game is there to be won, Stewart threw in a football analogy. "I don't believe in a team that goes a goal up after five minutes and spends the rest of the game trying to kick the ball over the stand. We didn't welcome the rain in Guyana and we will not be trying to sneak out of here with a draw. We look to win every game until it becomes impossible."

If, however, England do negotiate a winning position today by bowling the West Indies out for a second time they will have more to contend with than a simple equation of runs and overs. It is increasingly clear that the 90 overs per day regulation, as agreed for this series, is not worth the paper on which it is written and the spirit of the

game is in danger of farcical abuse.

Not once in the series to date have the minimum overs been completed, despite every day extending long into an additional hour. Dusk comes quickly in the Caribbean and, because there is no agreement for fines of any sort, either team can slow their over-rate to a point where, in the ultimate degree, the opposition is prevented from winning.

On Sunday afternoon, the West Indies bowled only 22 overs in two hours. Even Stewart, who remains publicly phlegmatic about the speed of operations here, said yesterday: "There does come a time when it gets too much and I personally cannot see the point of having a minimum number of overs in a day without sanction to support it."

West Indies have always resisted over-rate fines but perhaps even their intransigence players. We only look at what is ahead and, in this game, I would still rather be in our position than theirs."

England must be looking to press ahead with their overs at a respectable pace today to maintain their ambitions in the game. They must also hope that Devon Malcolm, whose five balls on Sunday evening cost 11 runs, can resume the level of accuracy he achieved in the first innings.

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Finally, it will be to England's benefit, this time, if any overnight rain has allowed the pitch to sweat under the covers, as it did before their own bating collapse on Sunday.

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At close of play on the fourth day of the match, Queensland were 156 for four in their second innings. New South Wales won the round-robin series and a draw will suffice for them to be Shield champions for a record fourth time.

New South Wales declared their second innings at 396 for nine, Mark Waugh scoring 78 not out to reach 1,000 runs for the season.

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Brazil find a new magical potion

By Stuart Jones

Football Correspondent

THIS BRAZILIAN magic has gone. That regrettable opinion is offered by no less an authority than Brazil's manager, Sébastien Lazaroni. But he believes that instead of relying on individual brilliance, he has found a more dependable formula with which to cast bewitching spells during the World Cup.

Without diminishing the natural ingredients of any Brazilian side, the soft touch and the graceful athleticism, he has added the tougher characteristics of power and aggression more usually associated with Europeans. The blend, he feels, could lead to a triumphant conclusion in Rome's Olympic Stadium on July 8.

"We are trying to find a better equilibrium between attack and defence," he says. "We have the natural talent to attack. Now we need more competitive players to fight, not with the fists but for the ball. It is important that we're adjusting our philosophy and I'm teaching my players the reality of the modern game."

There were misgivings in his own homeland when he took over a year ago. He was felt to be tactically

naïve. But results since he became the first Brazilian manager to employ a sweeper have transformed his reputation and his team, which is regarded as one of the favourites for the World Cup.

He still has his critics. For instance, Socrates, the former captain, says: "We are too rigid and our natural flair has been limited." But, under Lazaroni, Brazil won the South American championship for the first time in 40 years and have lost only three of their 23 fixtures.

Their defeats were inflicted during a tour of Scandinavia last summer when they were severely depleted. At full strength they recently conquered Italy, the World Cup hosts, and The Netherlands, who have otherwise remained unbeaten since they became the European champions two years ago, in December, for example, belonged to

Liniker and Shilton in particular and Barnes can be a threat. It is a pity that Bryan Robson is injured. He's a truly great player." Even though he has seen England play only on film, the style is familiar. It has been, he says, since 1966.

"You changed football then. Time and space became smaller and life was more difficult because there was less room to use technical skills. We are trying to change our attitude now as well but our fans shouldn't worry at Wembley you will see true Brazilian football."

"I can't alter our philosophy. No one can. That would take 100 coaches and 10 years. Anyway, why should I when I have 11 good players?" His only absentee is Romario, the leading scorer in The Netherlands before he fractured a bone in his leg three weeks ago.

"He is an important player," Lazaroni says. "When I heard that he could be playing again in a fortnight, I telephoned him to tell him to take it easy and to be sure to be okay for Italy." Romario, of PSV Eindhoven, is only one of his European exiles.

Nine of the side he chose against The Netherlands in Rotterdam in December, for example, belonged to

Continental clubs. They have already experienced for themselves the mental approach which Lazaroni is instilling in his squad.

"We are learning to use individual technique for the benefit of the whole team. We used to have a genius called Pelé but we don't have one now. When we come to rub our lamp in Italy, perhaps we will find another Aladdin. I hope so. Each contender for the World Cup has six or seven players and I wouldn't write off Argentina."

"Maradona is their genius, their Aladdin. He has had problems but Carlos Bilardo [Argentina's manager] tells me that Diego will be fit and ready." Apart from Italy and The Netherlands, he chooses West Germany because of their record and England, "because of their tradition," as the other potential threats.

Lazaroni graduated from being, in his own words, "a very bad goalkeeper" to leading Flamengo (in 1986) and Vasco da Gama (in 1987 and 1988) to the domestic title. As he seeks success on a grander managerial scale, he says that he is "confident" in his own new magical potion.



Lazaroni: a European formula

Seaman and Beasant under scrutiny

From Clive White

Dublin

WHILE an embarrassment of riches in the goalkeeping position continues to give Bobby Robson, the England manager, sleepless nights, for the Republic of Ireland, there is no such problem. Jack Charlton, their manager, announced yesterday that he would probably include only two goalkeepers among his squad of 22 for the World Cup finals in Italy this summer.

"I can always call up a third if someone gets injured," he said on the eve of the B international between the two countries in Cork. Presumably Robson has already taken into account the FIFA rule which permits only goalkeepers to be added to the squad in the event of injury. Robson has admitted half-jokingly that he may have to toss a coin to decide which two among Chris Woods, David Seaman and Dave Beasant will accompany Peter Shilton, his first choice, in Italy.

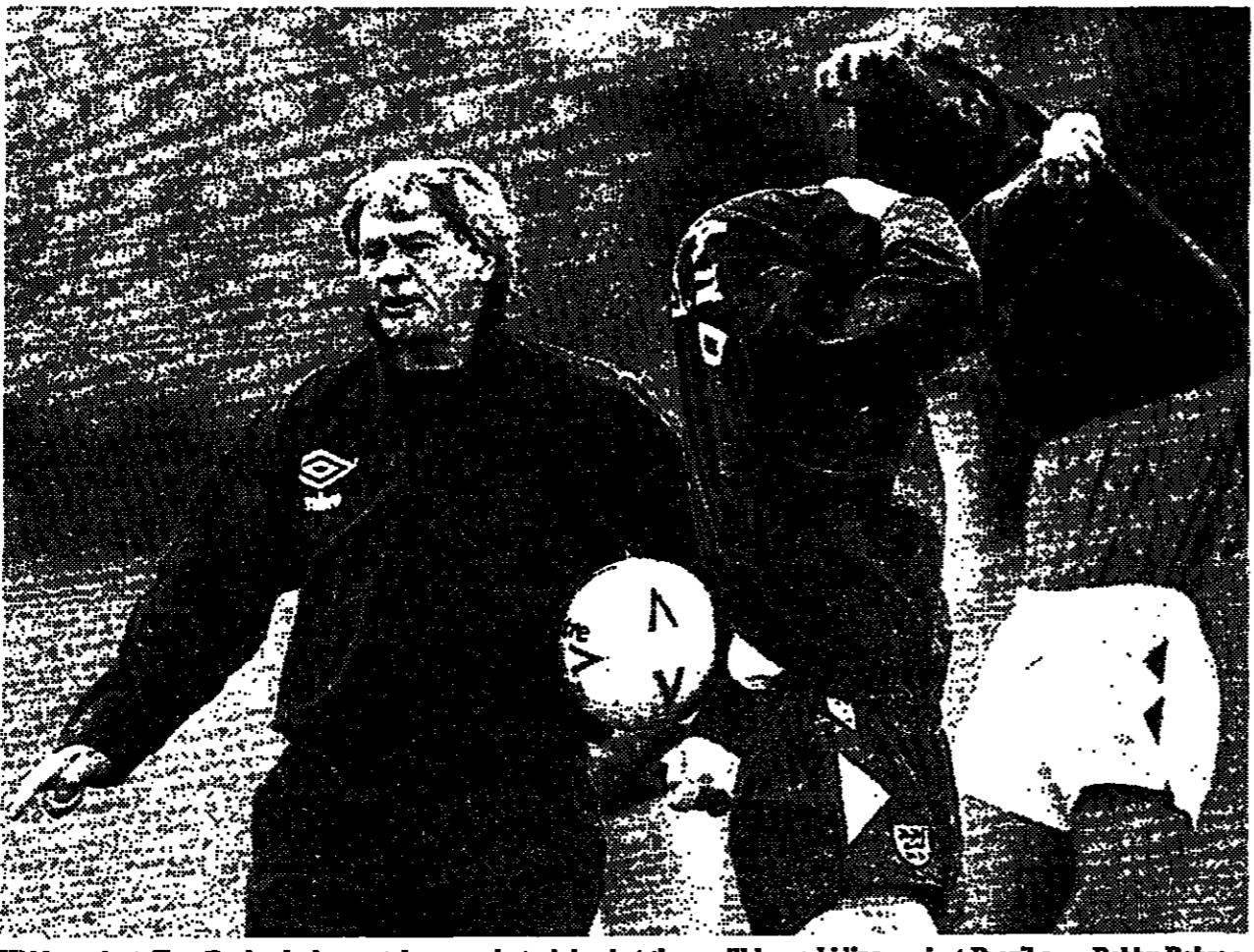
Today Seaman and Beasant will attempt to dispense with the need for any recourse to pot luck when they play a half each. Beasant spoke for probably all three when he said: "It would be a terrible blow to have got this far and miss out."

At least Beasant should be on an emotional high after the triumph by Chelsea at Wembley on Sunday in the Zenith Data Systems Cup final. That is in stark contrast to Seaman whose dreams of joining Arsenal remain exactly that, after the exchange deal involving himself and John Lukic collapsed last week.

It is not many months ago that Beasant's hopes seemed to be plummeting along with Chelsea as they slipped down the first division table. "I was getting a bit worried when the goals were not always down to me. I thought that I was playing well but that sort of thing can't do you any good," he said. Chelsea have recovered their form not a moment too soon as far as Beasant's reputation is concerned.

Neither Beasant nor Seaman, though, may get too many opportunities to steal a march on one another against a much less experienced Republic side. The Irish have opened a young and welcome challenge if will receive from the likes of Tony Adams, Matthew Le Tissier and possibly Nigel Clough and Tony Daley. Quinn, schooled in the Irish attack, admitted that he would rather face just about any other centre back than Adams, his former Arsenal colleague, of whom he has a rather different view than many critics.

A greater threat to the two England goalkeepers is more likely to come from Alan McLaughlin, who has scored 16 goals this season from midfield for Swindon Town. Charlton had considered selecting him for



Hidden talents Two England players take cover in training but there will be no hiding against Brazil says Bobby Robson

Roberts is ruled out by Wales

TERRY YORATH, the Wales manager, had to think of yet another name for his squad to face World Cup qualifiers, the Republic of Ireland, tomorrow, when he was unable to add Iwan Roberts to his list.

Yorath had hoped to replace the injured Mark Hughes with the Watford forward, but when he discovered Roberts is likely to be ruled out for six weeks because of an inflamed pelvis.

Instead, Yorath has drafted in Andy Jones, of Charlton Athletic, along with the Portsmouth defender, Gavin Maguire, who replaces the injured captain, Kevin Racine, of Everton.

Owen Oyston, the majority shareholder, has been appointed chairman of Blackpool in succession to the local solicitor, Ken Chadwick, who resigned last week. One of his first duties will be to preside at tonight's annual general meeting when shareholders will be told of big losses by the club struggling for third division survival.

Bingham priority is to avoid defeat

By George Ace

BILLY BINGHAM put his much-changed Northern Ireland squad through an hour-long workout yesterday afternoon in preparation for the match against Norway at Windsor Park, Belfast, tonight — a first tentative step in the build-up to the European championship which gets underway later in the year.

"Ideally I would have liked to have had my full complement of players together for this first opening match but circumstances rule out Norman Whiteside and Nigel Worthington," Bingham said. "And injuries have forced me to bring in Gary Fleming, Mark Todd and Raymond McCoy to replace Alan McDonald, Michael O'Neill and Robbie Dennison.

"It is unfortunate but it does provide an opportunity to gauge the ability of players on the fringe in international competition."

Bingham will strive to avoid a defeat. It seems certain that he

will start the match with the most experienced team he has at his disposal.

The biggest problem for the manager is how he is going to deploy his troops. One area that is going to demand all his acumen is midfield.

"I am heartened by the fact that Clarke, Quinn, Black and Wilson, the Wilson boys, are scoring goals at club level and if they can keep up the good work it may well be a memorable night for Northern Ireland football," Bingham said.

Northern Ireland have achieved only two wins in the last 18 internationals.

Bingham has several options open to him. While he may be prepared to gamble on one or two of the newcomers, it will be surprising if he omits any of his proven defenders.

• A late withdrawal from the Norwegian squad is Runey Bratseth, the captain. The defender, aged 29, is needed by his club, Werder Bremen, for a West German Cup match.

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SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 27 1990

Robson tells his men to temper their aggression

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

BOBBY ROBSON yesterday issued a stern warning to the Brazilians. The champions of South America should not expect to be able to coast or "soft shoe shuffle", as the England manager poetically describes their approach to recent games on the Continent, during the international at Wembley tomorrow night.

"We won't soft shoe shuffle," he said. "We don't play that way and we wouldn't want to, anyway, in front of a full house. People will expect a high performance from us and that is what we intend to give. Besides, there are one or two players still competing for their places."

"We weren't in second gear against Italy in November. We tried to go out there and beat them. It was the same against Yugoslavia in December and we did beat them with brisk, adventurous football, not the conservative way. Brazil have concentrated more on not losing than winning."

But his fighting talk is laced with a couple of his own notes of caution. As well as telling those in his side who are reputed to be England's hard men to temper their aggression, he has instructed the

whole side to limit the sense of adventure.

Last week in Zurich, where he was praised for his sporting reaction to the infamous

Argentine goal scored by the hands of Maradona and God

four years ago, Robson

learned that violent tackles will not be tolerated during the World Cup. Referees are this week receiving their instructions from FIFA, the game's governing body.

"What happens in the World Cup will set the tone for the next four years," Sepp Blatter, FIFA's secretary, said in Switzerland. "We are the window to the world and I don't care how many yellow cards there are during the tournament. The game is more important."

No Englishman is more likely to be punished this summer than Pearce. With two rash lunges, he threatened to dismiss Donadoni and Stojkovic, the leading lights of Italy and Yugoslavia respectively, in the last two internationals and Robson recognises that his left back will need to be more circumspect.

He said: "You can get away with it in our League but in the

World Cup crackdown

TIRRENI, Italy (Reuter) — Officials refereeing this summer's World Cup matches in Italy gathered near Pisa yesterday for a three-day meeting to ensure uniform refereeing of the 52 games.

At an International Football

Federation (FIFA) workshop last week, officials said referees would be ordered to punish violent play severely, and that players attempting tackles from behind should be sent off. They will also receive advice on how to avoid inciting crowd violence.

At an International Football

ARGENTINA's World Cup captain, Diego Maradona, has dealt an unexpected blow to Scotland's preparations for the World Cup finals in Italy this week, he was instead heading east, to Japan, for a week's break away from football with his family.

"I'm on holiday," he told reporters at Rome's Fiumicino airport. He is also due to fulfil an advertising contract in Japan.

With Maradona now a non-starter, the Heart of Midlothian central defender, Craig Levein, now faces a potentially gentler introduction to the international stage.

He, alongside the Everton midfielder player, Stuart McCall, is set to make his international debut for Scotland tomorrow, and stake a belated claim to a seat on the

plane to Italy in the summer.

Levein, aged 25, and coveted by a series of clubs south of the border until his career was almost cut short by injury, is, with McCall, part of an experimental line-up named by the Scotland coach, Andy Roxburgh.

"It's time to push them into the arena," Roxburgh said of the two players. "This match against Argentina and next month's game with East Germany are all about learning. Our approach is geared towards Italy and we are looking for individuals, or combinations, which can help us."

"What is the point of beating Argentina and then losing to Costa Rica in the World Cup? We have got to use these games to learn things."

Two of Levein's initial visitors in hospital, after the first of several operations on damaged knee ligaments, were Roxburgh and his assistant, Craig Brown. Roxburgh said: "It is a remarkable achievement that he has managed to reach this stage again after almost two years on crutches."

"When Craig and I went to see him in hospital, you wouldn't have given tuppence for his chances of coming back. It's tremendous that he has recovered so well."

Of McCall, he said: "He has matured. He used to be dominated by Peter Reid at Everton, but now he has developed into a typical Scottish midfielder who can pass".

The changes may not stop with the inclusion of Levein and McCall. Despite their superb showing during the qualifying round, the Rangers pairing of Ally McCoist and Maurice Johnston have looked jaded of late.

Robert Fleck and Alan McNally may, therefore, come into the picture.

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It was the venue for his achievement of the seemingly impossible — recovering from being 7-0 down to defeat the then almost invincible Steve Davis in the 1983 United Kingdom championship final. Higgins was truly marvellous.

Three years later he seemingly got away with the impossible yet again at the same hall and the same tournament after his notorious head-butting of the tournament director, Paul Hatherell. On that occasion Higgins was truly appalling.

The long and the short of it



Sizing things up: Heathcote with the coxes, Watts (left) and Ross-Magenta, yesterday

Heavyweight advantage

By Mike Rosewell

CHRIS HEATHCOTE, the Oxford No. 6, scaled a record 17st 5lb at the weigh-in for the Beefeater Boat Race at Putney yesterday. Heathcote, who celebrated his 27th birthday this week, stands 6ft 5in tall and spent five years of his life as an army commando before going to Oxford. Toby Backhouse, who rowed for Cambridge last year, was threatening records at the other end of the spectrum. Their crew weight of 12st 10½lb is the lightest since 1963 and their No. 2, Richard Staite, at 11st 3lb, is

that weight is not all important. "You don't want to carry too much over 4½ miles," he said.

The Oxford crew weight of 17st 12lb per man is also a record for the event, being half a pound per man heavier than their 1988 crew. Cambridge, meanwhile, are threatening records at the other end of the spectrum. Their crew weight of 12st 10½lb is the lightest since 1963 and their No. 2, Richard Staite, at 11st 3lb, is

the lightest competitor since Peter Webb rowed for Cambridge in 1963 at 11st.

On the water rather than the scales, Cambridge spent the day on technique and "sharpening exercises"; their finishing coach, Mark Lees, meanwhile, is threatening records at the other end of the spectrum. Their crew weight of 12st 10½lb is the lightest since 1963 and their No. 2, Richard Staite, at 11st 3lb, is

the lightest competitor since Peter Webb rowed for Cambridge in 1963 at 11st.

The crew's finishes have clearly improved over the last week at the lower ratings, but at higher ratings the boat tends to check and more run is needed.

Oxford had a quiet morning excursion before a delayed evening with their reserve crew, Ibis. Both crews will be concentrating on stroke boat start practice this morning.

The 136th University Boat Race is due to start from Putney at 4.30pm on Saturday.

Boat Race crews

OXFORD: T S Stalcock (Shrewsbury and Shifnal), 14st 6lb; bow, R J Chisholm

CAMBRIDGE: R C Young (Bedford and Downing), 12st 15lb; bow, R J Steele (Prince Henry's and St Catherine's), 11st 3lb; D E Hale (Foster's Grammar and St Catherine's), 11st 3lb; C G Smith (Wymondham College), 11st 3lb; S J Stansfeld (Cheltenham and Gloucester), 11st 3lb; G R Peeler (Berkeleywood, Imperial College London), 11st 3lb; P J Fawcett (Eton and Harrow), 11st 3lb; A J Wright (King Edward VI, Norwich and Corpus Christi), 11st 2lb; stroke; L J Ross-Magenta (Godolphin and Latymer and New Hall), 11st 10lb;

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